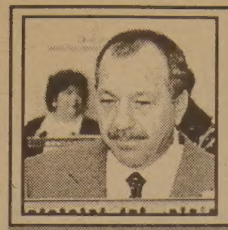

Al Palladini visits Glendale campus

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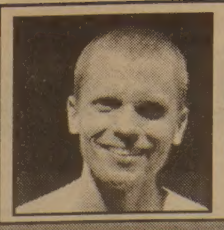

Big Bang Theory top at Battle of the Bands

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Wayne Gretzky calls end to career

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APRIL 23, 1999 FREE VOLUME 29—ISSUE 16

Monster trucks galore

It was one monster truck after another at the Niagara Falls Convention Centre in Niagara Falls, N.Y., on April 11. See related photos and story on Page 4.

Photo by Deslyn Diaram

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Career Expo '99 a success

By MATT HOLLEY
Staff Writer

Employers looking for employees were looking in the right place.

Career Expo '99 took place on April 7 at Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

This was the college's second Career Expo organized and produced by the graduating students in the Business Sales program. Assistance was provided by Nancy Schappert, program co-ordinator, and Cheryl Evans, graduate services department consultant.

Dan Patterson, college president, opened the ceremonies by emphasizing the career expo's importance to Niagara College and by thanking organizers.

Patterson says this year's expo was a combined effort of the faculty and students.

"Last year the faculty . . . in discussion with the Business Sales students, decided on a win-win project

Continued on Page 2

College gets good reviews from students

81 per cent are satisfied

By JENNIFER MAGO
Staff Writer

Niagara College students showed a high rating of satisfaction in an independent survey of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) taken in March.

Of the 2,400 students surveyed, 81 per cent said they were satisfied Niagara College programs provide them with hands-on experience for their future employment; 13 per cent were neutral; and six per cent were dissatisfied.

Sarah Giret, a student at the Welland campus in her first-year of the Computer Electrical, Electronic, Engineering Technology program, said, "The placement is really good. That's one of the reasons I took this course."

Niagara College student spokesman Don Woodruff, student representative on the college's Board of Governors, said, in a press release, the results match expectations.

"I understand exactly what these results are telling us," said Woodruff in his press release. "The college does a great job of preparing us for the world of work. Everybody around the college says that."

The survey results showed 75 per cent of Niagara's students were satisfied with the quality of their learning experiences. Eighteen per cent were neutral and seven per cent were dissatisfied.

"The information was very helpful to let us know how we can build and how we can improve on what needs attention," said college President Dan Patterson.

The quality of the facilities and resources showed 60 per cent of the students were satisfied and 28 per cent said they were neutral. while seven per cent were dissatisfied.

"While students are clearly satisfied with the quality of the teaching and programs at the college, the results also show that more investment in facilities and resources would be beneficial to students," said Patterson, in a recent press release.

In the survey, the cafeteria and the library were two of the facilties and resources students were to rate.

"The cafeteria food is too expensive because we're students with no money," said Ryan Nava, a second-year student in the Recreation and Leisure Services program at the Welland campus.

Amy Sanders, a first-year student in the Educational Resources and Special Needs program, said because of the location of her classes the cafeteria is too far away, adding, "They'd do much more business if it was over here (Tecumseh Centre)."

In reference to the library, Sanders said, "The books are outdated."

Of the students surveyed, 58 per cent are satisfied with the quality of the services available to them, 30 per cent are neutral and 12 per cent are dissatisfied. To help raise the level of satisfaction, Patterson said, the college would examine the data to find ways and means to improve.

"Overall we were very pleased with the students' satisfaction," said Patterson. "Our next step will be for the college to do a detailed analysis of the information and celebrate successes as well as respond to constructive concerns expressed by our students."

Good luck on your final exams!

Special thanks to all of you who volunteered as conversation partners this year.

THINK GLOBALLY!

From the staff in the International Education Department

Eye On Niagara

Linking students to job opportunities

High-profile Niagara businesses attend

Continued from Page 1

. . . a project linking up with employers since their (the students') goal is to get jobs," says Patterson.

Since the students have to organize an event, Patterson says they focused on a career expo. With the recent *Maclean's* magazine article about the number of college students who are employed, the logical step was to hold a career expo.

"Part of the culture of a college is to link students to job opportunities, and this is an excellent vehicle . . . creating a fair where you bring in a number of employers who can dialogue and have discussions, as opposed to sending in a résumé that will be sitting on a desk with a lot of others."

Patterson says a number of the expo employers were impressed with the way the college and students organized events.

More than 30 Niagara area businesses attended Career Expo '99, including the Niagara Parks Commission, S & P Data Call Centre, Toronto Dominion Financial Group, Canadian Forces and Canadian Niagara Hotels. Every business set up booths in the gym to recruit Niagara College students. Schappert says about 200 students attended.

Patterson says there are a few career expos but as more employers search for graduates there will be more in specific areas.

Schappert says employers were to be initially charged an entry fee but, as extra funding was available, they weren't.

Schappert says the money came from a combination of Student Administrative Council funds and the business department.

Building on this success, a Career Expo will also be held in 2000, Schappert says.

"It is such a success this year. We've had a 50 per cent increase in exhibitors, and employers are happy with what they've seen. They're pleased with the results."

Preparations for the expo were extensive as students proposed businesses they'd like to see, made the contacts and recruited exhibitors.

Colleen Hardie, of Fort Erie, an instructor in the promotions planning course, helped organize the expo segment.

"I think it's fantastic. I think the students really pulled together as a team. It's not easy to have 30 students co-ordinate an event like this, but they were divided into groups. They did a fantastic job."

Hardie says the students used skills learned in class, creating posters and other marketing tools. Employers, she says, were pleased with the event and received a lot of résumés.

Tracey Beekman, 20, of Jordan, is a graduating student of the program and says the expo is the main project for the year. Beekman was on the entertainment crew handling food and the opening ceremonies along with "a lot of other details."

Master Corporal B.C. Hart, a recruiter for the Canadian Forces in Lincoln and Wellington, says the Canadian Forces has an interest in the business aspects, but are also there to try to recruit people for service in the forces.

"We offer both part-time and full-time employment, which means we have opportunities for students in their first or second year who are finishing and looking for ways to make money," says Hart.

Sheraton Fallsview Hotel and Conference Centre in Niagara Falls was at the expo for its second time. Chris Wilson, manager, says the hotel considers new graduates but does like some experience.

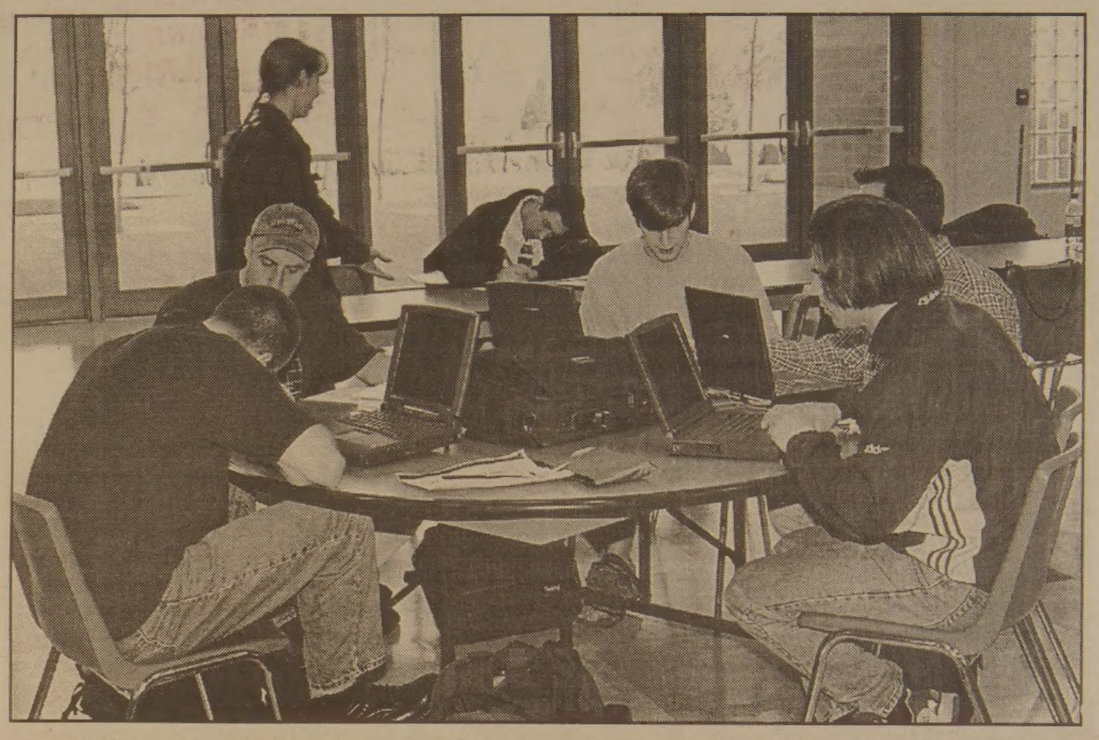
"The only position to get your foot in the door is a position like night audit. Night audit is where you balance the books from 11 p.m. to 8 a.m. the next morning," Wilson says.

Wilson says working the midnight shift looks great on a résumé. He says the job is fast-paced because you have to balance the books for several departments.

"You can't walk out of school and say, 'I'm going to get the $80,000 a year job.' You have to start at the bottom and work," says Wilson.

Rick Bodkin, 24, of Smithville, is in the Business Administration—Marketing program and says the expo is necessary.

"For me it comes in very handy because with all the projects and things going on right now at the end of term it's good for everyone to be together," says Bodkin.



Jeremy Piercy, Joel Newhouse, Steve Marischuk, Mario Palumbo and Kevin Lambert all in the Mechanical Engineering Technology program, work hard at Career Expo '99.

Photo by Matt Holley

Cameron Pelletier, 25, also in the Business Adminstration—Marketing program, says the expo is well organized.

Pelletier says he was one of a group of students who travelled to South Africa as part of winning a contest within the business department.

"A school was opening there and they needed a marketing plan, so they threw it out to the marketing students," says Pelletier.

Velle Christopolous, a representative from the TD Financial Group, says the event was well organized, but had one complaint.

"The students should be a little more prepared, in that they don't realize what job opportunities are available. They haven't gone to their Career Services Centre to see what, for example, TD has posted," says Christopolous.

Investors Group Financial Services Inc. had only positive things to say.

"It's great," says Shane Payette, 37, region manager. "It's very well organized. Glad to be here."

Investors Group offers full-time employment to recent graduates. *Payette says the firm offers an* excellent training program for those without experience. He says he'd return next year.

Mike Braithwate, 27, of St. Catharines, works for the YMCA and says the expo is a really good idea.

"I think it's great for us too because we do want people out of college. It's a good opportunity for us to meet people."

Career Expo '99 had two guest speakers, Lara Ventresca and Anne Wiens, from Human Resources Development Canada for Students. Ventresca spoke on job search techniques and Wiens on labour market trends. Each seminar ran about 45 minutes.

Career Expo '99, at the Glendale campus, bustled with students from the Business and Entrepreneurship program.

Photo by Matt Holley

Youngsters talk about spring

Hunting for worms in spring

By MEGAN ROSS
Staff Writer

Spring is in the air, as the children at the Niagara College Child Care Centre know.

The kindergarten students were out on recess when asked about spring.

Six-year-old Jessica said she is glad the snow is gone, but she "likes summer the best." Her friend, Samantha, 4, said she likes to play outdoors in shorts, and she also "likes" summer.

Steven, 4, said he "likes winter better," and Taylor, 5, said he likes fall.

All the children were busy on a worm hunt. Asic, 6, said he likes to find worms because they "move and squiggle." Blake, 4, said he "likes feathers and worms."

The pre-school children were inside playing when asked about spring.

Three-year-old Marisa said she likes her pool at nana's "very, very much." She said there was no water in it now and that it has to be blown up in the summer time.

When asked if she likes spring, Emily, 3, said "no." She said she "likes when it rains," so she can use her yellow, blue and red umbrella. Andrew, 3, said he has a "big" bike at home he "likes" to ride. He also said that it was broken, but his mommy fixed it.

Kennedy, 3, said she likes that there is "no snow," but she doesn't like rain. She said she wants to wear her new Teletubbie dress. Her friend Ivy, 3, said she likes flowers and that she has a "big" bike at her father's.

Eye On Niagara

College, province working together

Queen's Park grants $1.6 million

By SAM BAYLY
Staff Writer

A $1.6-million provincial grant for a research facility for integrated manufacturing and training is making a dream come true at Niagara College.

Al Palladini, minister of economic development, trade and tourism, made the announcement at college's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake on April 6. The funding will establish the Centre for Integrated Manufacturing, Training and Applied Research (CIMTAR).

"This announcement is a dream come true for Niagara Falls," said Niagara College President Dan Patterson.

"This facility is really built with the future in mind," said Palladini. "Future jobs, future prosperity."

Bonnie Rose, the college's vice-president, academic, said most of the funds will go toward new technology at the Glendale campus. "It will involve bringing in three leading-edge laboratories."

One lab will be for the engineering and design of rapid prototyping. "Bringing new products to market quickly is one of the critical elements of success," said Rose.

The lab will be used to train people to develop and design new products as well as to create prototypes.

A computer-integrated manufacturing lab will be built to simulate a manufacturing enterprise from production through to the packaging.

Rose said this "is a unique lab available in community colleges in Ontario, and we are just terribly excited about the learning opportunities it will create."

The manufacturing lab, Rose added, will give students from various programs a chance to work together "to get that real-world experience.

"What we will be able to do with CIMTAR is expand the range of technical training that is available to a wide variety of students preparing to enter the workforce."

Students will 'get that real-world experience.' — Bonnie Rose

Students in apprenticeship programs, skills training, manufacturing and mechanical engineering, operations management "and a variety of other programs such as our environmental program" will benefit from CIMTAR, said Rose.

She added CIMTAR will act as an "expanded resource for the manufacturing industry in this region." The facility will provide new workers in addition to retraining and upgrading of the industry's workforce.

As a research and development resource, CIMTAR will let manufacturers "test new ideas in a low-cost, low-risk environment."

Rose said these resources will be used to attract new businesses to the area.

An additional $700,000 was raised by the college through its partnerships with Donohue, Dofasco Inc., Lubrizol Canada Ltd., GenCorp, John Deere Foundation of Canada, Dana Canada Inc., Ferranti-Packard, Geon Canada Inc., TRW Canada Ltd. and General Motors of Canada Ltd. The college contributed $200,000 in kind.

Niagara College competed against more than 60 groups from the private sector, universities and other colleges for nine available packages. The province put a total of $10 million into the nine projects.

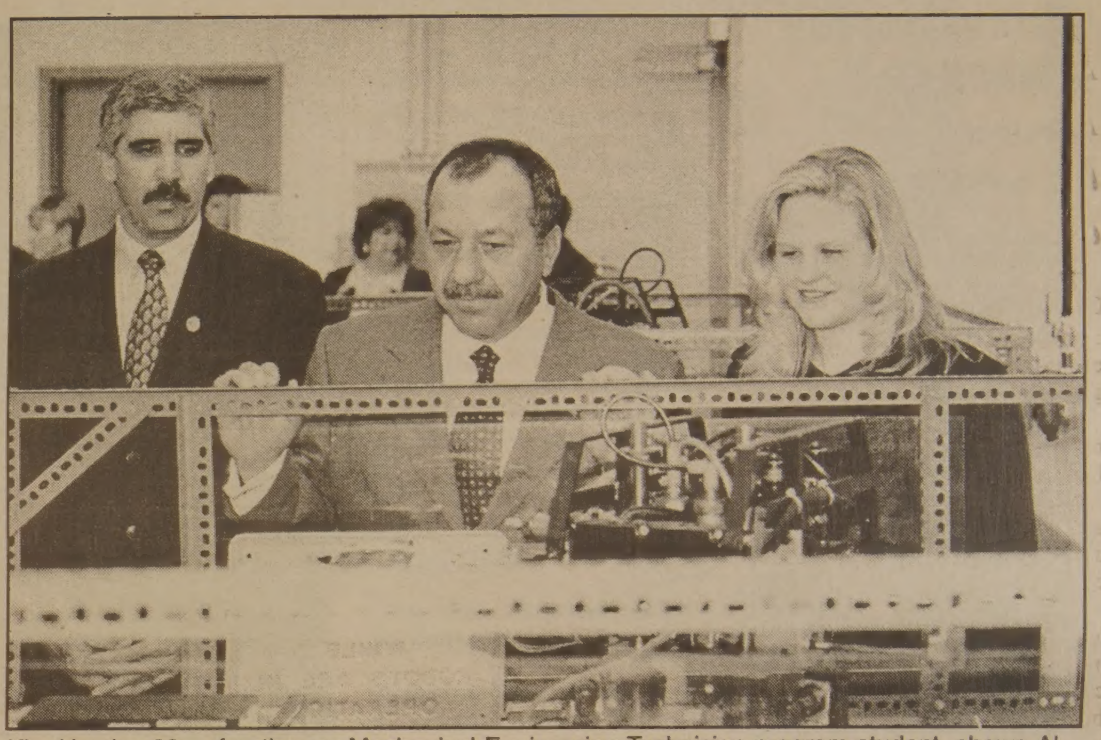
The money came from the Tories' $30-million Strategic Skills Investment Initiative.

The college conducted a regional labour market needs analysis that identified the need for CIMTAR.

The proposal sent to the provincial government was the result of a partnership between Niagara College and the manufacturers of the region.

"Anything we do at Niagara College involves industry at the very beginning," said Patterson.

Use of the facility and changes in students' curriculum will start this September.



Kim Houtby, 22, a fourth-year Mechanical Engineering Technician program student, shows Al Palladini, provincial minister of development, trade and tourism, and St. Catharines-Brock MPP Tom Froese, Larry, a robot used for industrial assembly. **Photo by Sam Bayly**

Improved curricula, training facilities

Federal government donates $2 million for training

By MARTIN McQUAIG
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Centre for Integrated Manufacturing, Training and Applied Research (CIMTAR), will be getting a boost from the Canadian government.

St. Catharines MP Walt Lastewka was at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake on April 9 to announce $2 million in funding to General Motors of Canada Limited (GM) and other Niagara manufacturers to train current and prospective employees.

Canada's Local Labour Markets Program will help GM "develop a skilled workforce capable of producing products that meet world-class standards," said a release from Human Resources Development Canada (HDRC).

CIMTAR will benefit through improved curricula and training facilities. Its students will provide higher skill levels to help GM and other Niagara manufacturers "compete in global markets."

"I can't stress enough how extremely important this partnership is to the economic health of the Niagara Region," said Lastewka in a release from HDRC.

GM is importing "state of the art" technology and equipment, said Bea Clark, director of the college's Ventures Division.

She said Niagara students will benefit from professors who are getting hands-on experience at GM in St. Catharines. The professors are learning about the new technology while training GM employees.

"This is such a unique partnership," said Clark, who added that GM has posted this information to General Motors operations worldwide and received positive feedback.

'college to play a key role in local industry training programs.' — Dan Patterson

"This initiative demonstrates HDRC's confidence in the college to play a key role in local industry training programs," said college President Dan Patterson, in an HDRC release.

"It supports and strengthens the competitiveness of Niagara's auto manufacturing sector, while enhancing our role as a major partner in Niagara's economic development."

Monster Truckin'

Monster truck rally, a loud experience

Brings out the child in everyone

By DESLYN DIARAM and MIKE WENCEL
Staff Writers

Monster trucks bring out the child in everyone.

The Niagara Falls Convention Centre in Niagara Falls, N.Y., was the site for a monster truck rally on April 11 featuring WildFire, The Undertaker, Pony Express, Steve Austin 3:16, Taurus and Awesome Kong.

The rally began at 2 p.m. with freestyle wheely competitions divided into two heats of monster trucks. The heats were won by 3:16 and The Undertaker, who later battled it out for the No. 1 spot, finally taken by 3:16.

The second part of the rally was a side-by-side drag racing competition. The Undertaker got his revenge beating 3:16, who settled for second place.

Rex Smith, the driver of Awesome Kong, said this is his fifth year driving his monster truck. "I did 48 shows this year and I've been doing it for five years now."

"The best part of my job is signing the autographs of little kids," said Smith. "If it weren't for the kids and the folks that came to the show we wouldn't be doing it."

He said the autograph session the drivers do after the show is his "favourite" part. "I like watching the kids' eyes light up. We get to talk to them and everything."

Smith said he bought his truck nine years ago and does the repairs. "I do the maintenance, repairs, tire washing and I put the tires on. I do everything." He said he designed the truck's name and colours. The tires are 66 inches tall and 43 inches wide.

He said the hardest part of driving his truck is "keeping the truck together."

Brian Martin, 31, driver of Pony Express who has been driving for six years, said, "I work on my truck 24 hours, seven days a week. We come out and try to put on a good show. We're not afraid to break anything and if we do, we just fix it and travel to another city or town."

Martin says he's put $150,000 into Pony Express containing a 460-horsepower and 1,100-cubic-inch engine.

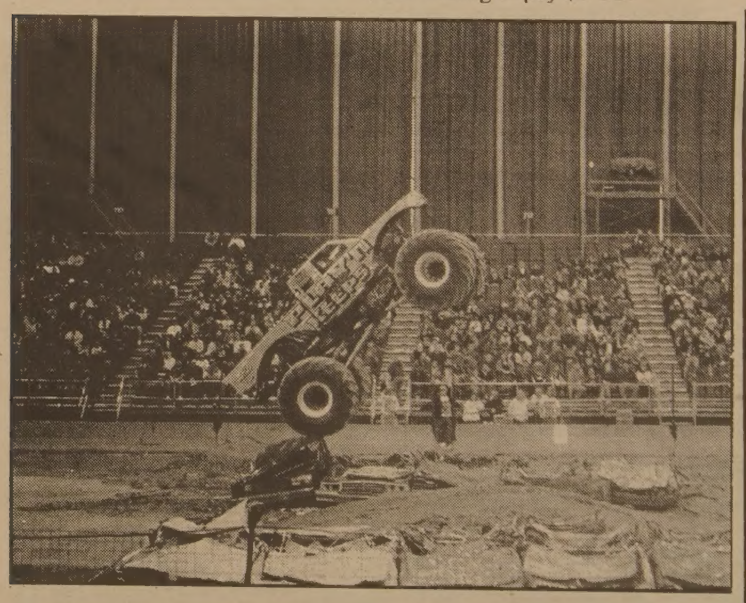
Martin said, "I'm going to go out there and beat everyone that's here."

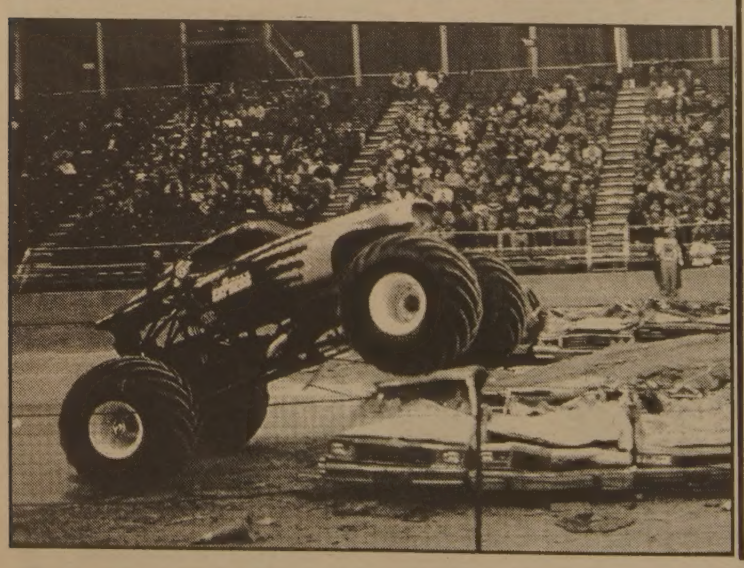
Truck rides were given in WildFire around the arena to anyone willing to pay $5 US.

'Best part of my job is signing autographs.' — Rex Smith

Monster truck rally held on April 11 in Niagara Falls, N.Y. (Above) Taurus and 3:16 battles in side-by-side drag racing. (Bottom) Play'n for Keeps and Pony Express showing off their stuff in the freestyle event

Photos by Mike Wencel





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Health Fair

Health Fair educating at Glendale campus

By MANDI SPEELMAN
Staff Writer

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE — It was a day of educating people about their health.

"There will be a health fair at every campus for the next few years. This year it's at Glendale, and next year Welland will have the big one," says Carolyn Hurst, of Fonthill, registered nurse at the Welland campus.

She says the health fair started a few years ago at the Welland campus and comes back about every two years.

"This year is the first year we ran it at the Glendale campus. About 18 people from different agencies have come."

Sandra Vitali, public health nurse from the Regional Niagara public health department in St. Catharines, presented the infectious disease program.

"It is designed for people travelling to international locations."

Vitali, of Thorold, says the travel clinic service "offers counselling, advice and immunization."

"Unfortunately, it's something that isn't covered by the Ministry of Health. Fees associated with a 45-minute counsel session with a nurse is $25. Immunizations range from $30 to $60."

She says she advises anybody who is travelling "to be up to date with their tetanus, diphtheria and polio booster," which should be done every 10 years. The cost is covered by the Ministry of Health.

"Depending on which location you're travelling to, there are different immunization recommendations."

Diseases such as yellow fever are in affected areas of South America and Africa while meningitis is in India, Nepal and Africa.

"There are many viruses and bacteria you can be exposed to. Most diseases that people encounter while travelling are due to contaminated food and water."

She says people should take the appropriate precautions before they engage in different lifestyles or different food.

"Seek advice before you go and do some travel. You want to prevent certain diseases that are out there rather than treat them before they're contracted."

To book an appointment call (905) 688-2538 ext. 383.

"We're showing people healthy lifestyles," says Elizabeth Janzen, health promotion chairperson from the Canadian Cancer Society in St. Catharines.

She says she's telling the people about smoking and its effects, taking care of their skin in the sun and watching the fat content in their diet.

"We found breast cancer is affected by diet. Cancers in your bowels, intestines and stomach can be affected by a high-fat diet."

Janzen, of St. Catharines, says skin cancer is the most common form of cancer and can be "easily cured if found in time because of its visibility."

"Cancer is the result of a cell that has gone wild. It divides erratically and can show up on any part of the body."

She says cancer is basically a "disease of the elderly." The older people get, the more chance they have of getting it. Anybody is susceptible to different types of cancer.

"If we watch our diet, limit our smoking and our time in the sun, that can help reduce the risk of cancer."

June O'Neill, 44, of Niagara Falls, works with the Discovery program, an active-by-day treatment program for the severely mentally ill.

O'Neill, a registered nurse at the Greater Niagara General Hospital in Niagara Falls, says the community program started 14 years ago and receives funding through the Ministry of Health.

"We run different therapy groups like stress relaxation, cognitive therapy, anger management and panic disorders/agoraphobia. The most common would be schizophrenia, depression and anxiety disorders."

She says the weekly attendance is about "100 clients in the different groups, with the average age being from 30 to 60. They are predominantly female.

"I think females have an easier time seeking help."

The program is for anyone over 16 years old, and a referral from a doctor isn't needed, she says.

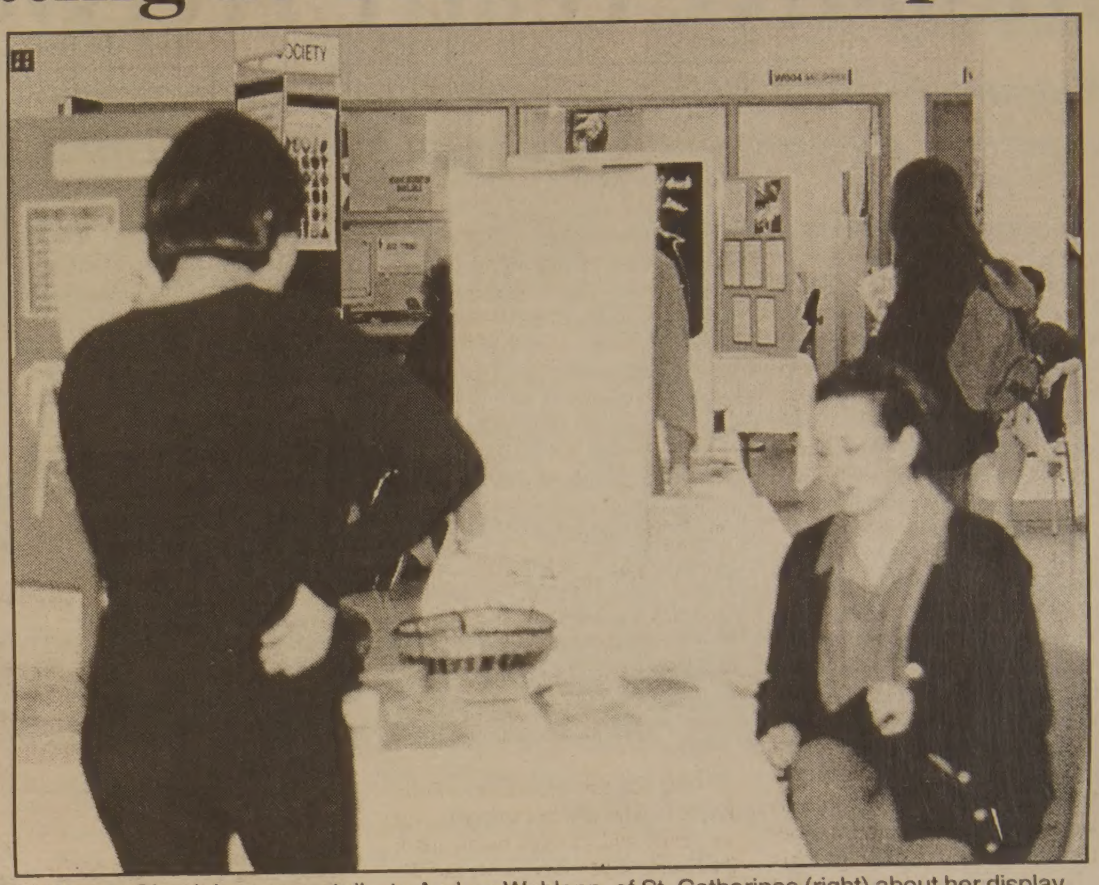
For more information call (905) 358-4906.

Victoria Braun, 22, a student studying in the Business Administration—Accounting program at Niagara College's Glendale campus, says she wanted to see what was there.

"I wanted to see if there was anything interesting and if I could get any information."

She says she liked it and got some pamphlets from the mental health table and breast examination table.

Hurst says what they're trying to do is make everybody aware there are agencies available.



Student at Glendale campus talks to Andrea Wehlann, of St. Catharines (right) about her display at the health fair.

Photo by Mandi Speelman

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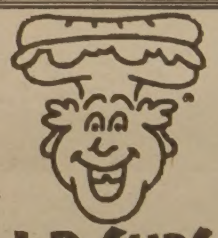

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Eye On Niagara

Resource centre receives new scanner

Niagara College Retirees Association donates a new computer scanner to the Learning Resource Centre

Retirees Association president Elvira Lucas (far right), association member Phil Scoons and SAC president Jamie Ebsary.
Photo by Deslyn Diaram

By DESLYN DIARAM
Staff Writer

The Niagara College Retirees Association has donated a computer scanner to Niagara College's Learning Resource Centre (LRC) at the college's three campuses.

Association president Elvira Lucas and member Phil Scoons, both former teachers here, made the presentation on March 31.

The Retirees Association is active in the Niagara region. Meetings, held monthly, are attended by 100 to 120 members.

Lucas and Scoons presented a cheque for $498 to Trish Labonte, manager of the college's LRCs, to pay for the Scanjet 5100C scanner.

Jamie Ebsary, Welland campus president of the Student Administrative Council (SAC), thanked the association on the students' behalf.

Labonte said she received several requests that identifed the need for a scanner from students and SAC. She said she contacted the college's Information Technology department to construct a computer able to run the scanner at an efficient speed.

> *'It's for everyone, including retirees.'*
>
> *—Elvira Lucas*

Labonte said the SAC office told her that to get what she needed for the upgrade "'a lot of people have pulled together,' and I think it's great."

Labonte said Ron Mottola, the LRC media technologist, loaded the computer software. It now works faster than a few years ago. "Everyone seems to like it."

Lucas said the focus of the whole college is the library. "It's something all students can use and have access to use, versus buying for a particular department."

The association has donated a computer scanner to each of the college's three campuses in Welland, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls. Lucas said it creates equality between campuses.

Lucas and Scoons taught at Niagara College, and both said they are still interested in students. "They keep a tie," said Labonte.

"It's for everyone, including retirees," said Lucas.

Scoons said donor plaques for the scanners at the Glendale and Maid of the Mist campuses are being acquired.

CIPS helping Niagara students

President of the Golden Horseshoe section of CIPS Jerry Dmetrichuk (left) was on hand to congratulate scholarship winner Marsha Baddeley and president of the new student section Alejandro Tanaka.
Photo by Jamie White

By JAMIE WHITE
Staff Writer

The Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS), Golden Horseshoe Section, announced the official opening of the Niagara College Student Section, on April 14.

CIPS is a non-profit organization to promote the Information Technology (IT) profession. It offers a way to network and keep up with technology.

Jerry Dmetrichuk, president of the Golden Horseshoe Section, says that CIPS is "the voice and champion for the Canadian IT profession."

He says the organization is a way for IT professionals to come together and have "a greater voice."

CIPS raises money through membership dues and gives scholarships and grants to students who meet the criteria.

> *'CIPS is the voice and champion for the Canadian IT profession.'*
>
> *—Jerry Dmetrichuk*

To get a scholarship, a student from that program must be continuing in the program next year, must have achieved academic excellence, and must have demonstrated leadership in his or her discipline.

A $500 grant was presented to Alejandro Tanaka, a first-year student in the Computer Programer/Computer Programer Analyst program at the Welland campus. He has been named president of the new student section.

The grant was to help Tanaka and the other members in starting up their section.

Marsha Baddeley, 32, a second-year student also in the Computer Programer/Computer Programer Analyst program, was awarded a $300 scholarship from CIPS Golden Horseshoe Section.

Baddeley met the criteria and accepted her cheque along with a commemorative plaque.

Lucky five chosen to study overseas

By RYAN HOLIERHOEK
Staff Writer

Five Niagara College students will spend six months completing their studies in other parts of the world.

The Canadian International Development Agency and the Association of Canadian Community Colleges have placed five Niagara students in Argentina and India.

Their trip is part of a Youth Internship Program organized by the federal government's Youth Employment Strategy.

A group of 35 students were interviewed for the opportunity.

Matt Wooton and Kevin Akyeampong were among the chosen five. Both are enrolled in the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) post-graduate program.

The two will be flying to India in June after graduating. Once in Bandalore, India, Wooton and Akyeampong will be helping faculty and students in the Centre for Environmental Management Training at Acharya Pathasala Polytechnic in using the school's new GIS equipment.

Mandy Kalitsis and Andrew Mack will be joining Jennifer Gillam in Argentina. Kalitsis and Mack are students from the Ecosystems Restoration post-graduate program, while Gillam is a graduate of the same program. The group will focus on ecological restoration in Rosario, Argentina, and will work with Ecosur, a non-profit organization.

Gillam, who has been in Argentina since February, is helping Ecosur develop new restoration projects.

Kalitsis and Mack will help continue the development of these projects in June when they arrive.

Niagara College is also developing new projects in 10 countries, including South Africa and Ecuador.

"We're currently working on future internship opportunities for our students in Ecuador," Jos Nolle, the college's director of International Education, said in a recent press release from the college.

"These links provide our students with the unique international experience for their résumés. The students also establish personal and professional connections between themselves as a Canadian and people from other countries."

HAVE A SAFE SUMMER HOLIDAY
Don't forget to look for the Niagara News.
We'll be back October 1, 1999.

International

Patterson invites ESL students over

By NATSUKO TAMURA
Staff Writer

International students said they enjoyed the hospitality extended to them by the president of Niagara College.

Dan Patterson and his wife, Saundra, invited more than 40 students and teachers in the English as a Second Language program (ESL) to their residence in St. Catharines on April 9.

Saundra said the couple planned the event because they "really like having students over," adding they have had visiting students there once before and enjoyed their company.

"I think it's important, especially for students from other countries, to come into our home and enjoy our hospitality," said Saundra.

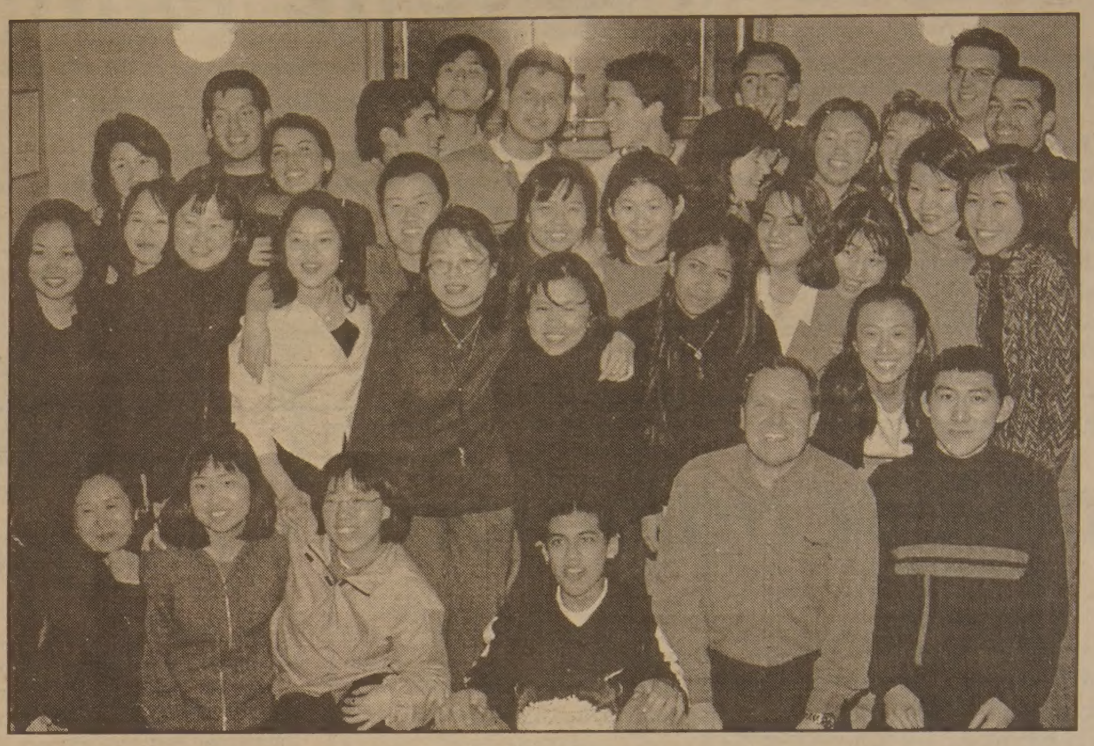
Arriving at the Pattersons' house, ESL students got Saundra's warm welcome. Then a smiling Patterson appeared in a "cozy" sweater and pants. As everyone entered the first floor, Patterson told the guests to relax and enjoy.

"I've never seen such a big house in Canada," said Maki Takeuchi, of Japan.

It's a three-storey house, furnished in dark wood with white tones. In a cabinet, crystal, china and a series of books were neatly displayed.

The wide-eyed students nervously checked out the rooms before going downstairs where a bar, a large, open space and a fireplace were located. Saundra said the downstairs is "very" nice area for entertainment, adding it was recently renovated.

"They have a wonderful house to do it (entertain)," said Jos Nolle, the director of International Education.



Second from the bottom right, President Dan Patterson, and ESL students pause for photo.
Photo by Natsuko Tamura

The sound of a crackling fire and the warm glow of the dimmed lighting provided a relaxing and comfortable atmosphere. While drinks and snacks were served, a little nervousness among students gradually melted away.

Diego Chaparro, 18, of Colombia, performed on his guitar, singing with his friends, while other students chatted, played games and snapped some pictures. When Latin music was played, some Colombian students began authentic dancing, which drew everyone's attention.

Patterson and his wife walked around and talked to as many students as possible to "get to know (the students) a little bit better."

Standing near the bar with a bottle of beer in hand, Patterson had "big laughs" with male students from Colombia and Jordan. German Millan, of Colombia, said they "cracked jokes and had good talk." He added he talked to Patterson as if he were a classmate.

"He's just a guy, though he's the president. He's a funny man," Millan said.

"I like here," said Tim Fang, 20, of China. He said he talked with the Pattersons about the president's trip to China.

"It's amazing," said Baher Mustafa, 19, of Jordan, adding he talked about Palestine since Patterson and his wife are planning to travel there this year.

All of those who talked with Patterson said he's "very friendly."

"The president and his wife are very welcoming," said Betty Ann Chandler, an ESL teacher.

Patterson and his wife shook hands with each of the students to say goodbye. The students thanked them for their hospitality and for the lovely night.

He apologized to some students with whom he'd had little time to talk. "That's OK. Next time," said one of the students to Patterson. Saundra said they'll invite ESL students again.

New program for graduates

By SHANNON MASTALER
Staff Writer

A new Hotel Management Services post-graduate program is being offered at Niagara College's Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls.

It begins in September and runs over eight months.

"We are hoping for at least 20 students in the program at the beginning, and about 25 in the future," said Dave Taylor, director of Maid of the Mist Centre for Hospitality and Tourism.

Courses will emphasize management concepts and technological tools, applied management case studies, business plans, marketing strategies and communication strategies.

In the first semester, students will take courses such as finance and resource management, human resource management, marketing, property management, customer service management and communication techniques.

In the second semester, students will work under the guidance of Niagara area hotel property managers.

Students will develop a business plan for a proposed hotel, including a facility plan, communication strategy and a customer service plan.

Students will be required to use a laptop computer and will be provided with one that "Revenue Canada will allow them to deduct," said Dave Berry, co-ordinator of graduate studies.

Students will work in specially designed classrooms. "We are re-decorating completely," said Berry. "Students won't leave their classrooms. It's their classroom. Teachers will rotate around them."

Taylor said student interest is high. "There is a lot of demand for this type of program, and people are expressing a need for it."

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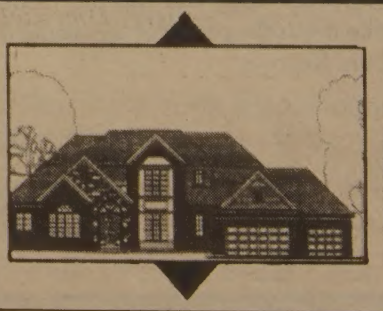

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Editorial

Niagara News

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Baby contest ridiculous

The race to have the Millennium baby is on.

The last couple of weeks were supposed to be the best time to conceive in order to deliver a baby on New Year's 2000.

This competition is ridiculous. It's being discussed on radio, and there is a generous cash prize for the winner.

Hasn't anyone thought this baby — whoever she or he may be — is still a human life? A baby is worth more than a competition, a cash prize and a name in history.

Besides, why would any female want to risk having a baby by giving birth on a night when emergency rooms will be packed with crazy partiers who've hurt themselves, or rioters who are out of control?

Why would any female want to give birth to a baby on a night when doctors will be overwhelmed ensuring life-support machines aren't failing?

Hasn't anyone thought this competition may encourage people who wouldn't usually want a baby to have one just for the cash prize? That's not really fair to a baby.

Even more ridiculous is women scheduling Caesarean-sections on New Year's Eve so they can win.

We can only hope this New Year's baby is born healthy and to good parents who will love and care for him or her.

We can only hope the cash prize is put to good use such as a college or university fund, or something for a successful future.

Jamie White

Chretien needs to speak

Prime Minister Jean Chretien needs to step up to the plate and inform Canadians about our role in Kosovo.

While Canadians are different from Americans in many ways, we look to our heads of state for assurance in times of uncertainty. U.S. President Bill Clinton has spoken to Americans on a regular basis since the beginning of NATO air strikes. Chretien leaves our concerns to the mercy of CNN.

Defence Minister Art Eggleton and Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, are doing a good job of speaking to the media during the Kosovo conflict. Canadians want to hear it from Chretien. We elected a Liberal government because we wanted him to be our leader.

If NATO commits to ground troops entering Serbia, the lives of many Canadian soldiers will be at risk.

Chretien must tell us this is not just the United States' war, but something that concerns the entire international community.

Canada needs a leader who will use the media to communicate with Canadians. Chretien needs the power of the media if he wants public support during the conflict in Kosovo.

Martin McQuaig

Letters to the Editor

Writer praises Harris

Dear Editor:

The author of your No "common-sense" editorial (Volume 29, Issue 15), like the previous New Democratic Party government, does not understand that governments do not have any money of their own.

Every dollar they spend or give away is money that has been confiscated from someone who has earned it.

They are the hard-working unappreciated taxpayers of Ontario, that Mike Harris has given a well-deserved break.

As the reorganization of health care and education progresses, we will need more nurses and teachers; and less bureaucrats.

Merging school boards and hospital boards will save millions of dollars in administration costs. This will be spent on skilled workers and equipment to serve us better than before.

That is, if the board members will eliminate their own jobs and stop dumping on the workers and blaming the government for catching on to them.

There is a hint of another income tax or sales tax cut, and possibly a sensible increase in highway speed limits to come.

A government that keeps its election promises is a rare one.

We are truly fortunate to have one in Ontario. Long may they be *with us; so we can all prosper.*

Michael Miller,
Niagara Falls, Ont.

Just cause for decrease

Dear Editor:

I am writing in regard to the article in the *Niagara News* on Friday, April 9 (Volume 29, Issue 15) on Page 17 headlined "Keep on Pubbin'."

The After Hours pub is a student-owned organization for the students, by the students. Therefore, it should be promoted positively, not negatively.

Pub nights have always started to decrease in the month of April simply because:

- Student course loads are heavier.
- Students are preparing for final exams.
- Lack of funds.
- Students are starting to move home.
- It's the end of the year.

The After Hours pub staff, who are also students, are taking full course loads as well.

We work here as a team and we get the job done.

We also work really hard to meet the students' requests, concerns, suggestions, and needs and that is what is important.

We feel that the pub should be promoted positively, not negatively, and we also feel that the article should have had more positive input and should have had a more positive outlook by students, especially since it is the end of the year.

The After Hours' staff are willing to take any suggestions, concerns, and requests to meet the students' needs.

Marlena Cavanaugh,
of Welland
Third-year Child and Youth Worker program
After Hours employee

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Viewpoints

Finding inner strength

Take little steps and tell yourself you can do it

By MANDI SPEELMAN
Staff Writer

It made my heart beat fast, my palms sweat and my body shake.

I didn't understand what was wrong with me. Neither did anyone around me.

One day I was reading my mom's medical encyclopedia and looked under phobias. It was then I found out what I had. It was called agoraphobia, and it is the fear of open spaces and public places.

It prevents people from functioning normally. It's a fear of going outside when people are walking by. It's fear of confrontation.

It started when I was 13 years old and lasted for five years. I had always been shy, so it was only a time bomb waiting to go off when we moved away from my comfort zone of Welland. Having already established a life filled with trustworthy friends and family, I thought I could never accept change.

Moving eight hours away from "home" was traumatizing. It meant I had to create a whole new environment for myself and regain the trust and comfort I had to leave behind.

Because I was shy, it was hard for me to meet people, so I hid myself inside my home, saving myself from a society that was against me—or so I thought at the time.

I know what it's like to feel trapped inside on a nice day, yearning to just step outside my door without feeling anxiety. I lied to friends and family about not wanting to go out where there would be other people. I hurt for so long until finally I found an inner-strength inside me telling me to not be this way any longer. It had always been there, but I just ignored it because it meant I had to change.

I had to take the first step of telling someone about my problem. Always taking the easy way out of situations, I felt as if I were carrying a ton of bricks over my shoulder on the way to the counsellor's office.

When I talked to the counsellor, it was easy for me because I recognized the problem and knew where it came from. I realized she was there to listen and give advice.

She wasn't going to hold my hand, walk me outside and protect me from the world. It was up to me to take the advice and try to overcome the negativity I had absorbed for so long.

I took little steps, telling myself that I could do it, taking deep breaths when I felt an anxiety attack and forcing myself to go out more with friends and family. I'm still a little shy at 18, but after taking so many steps since then, I can make one big leap into the future, knowing my inner strength will never be ignored again.

Look beyond body image

Appearance shouldn't determine self-worth

By KYM CRAWFORD
Staff Writer

I'm tired of hearing girls complaining about being "fat."

I don't even like the word. Why can't people accept the fact everybody is unique, like snowflakes. I think that, in itself, is what makes us beautiful. Some blame the media for portraying waif-like model-types as "the ideal."

Maybe that's part of it, but maybe if we didn't dwell so much on the things we don't like about ourselves, and a little more on the stuff we do, we could learn to like ourselves.

People with a good self-image seem more confident and self-assured. C'mon, what's the sense in worrying about what everyone else thinks?

'Learn to love yourself first'

If you walk around your whole life worrying about that, you can never be truly happy. There's an old saying, "You can't love anyone else until you love yourself."

In the end, you have only yourself. So you'd better get acquainted. When you're old, wrinkly and reminiscing, it's sad to think that your appearance was the only thing you liked about yourself.

Don't drink and drive, but think

By JENNIFER MAGO
Staff Writer

Drinking and driving is always a concern, but I hear about it more often as we near the warm weather.

Since I began working at Crawdaddy's in Simcoe, Ont., on weekends, I've noticed the number of people who get into their cars after drinking. Many of them aren't in the right condition to be driving.

I admire the bartenders at Crawdaddy's whom I've seen stop drinkers, many times, from getting into their cars. They'll take money out of their own pocket to pay for a cab or even give them a ride. They're stopping accidents before they happen and saving lives by doing these small gestures.

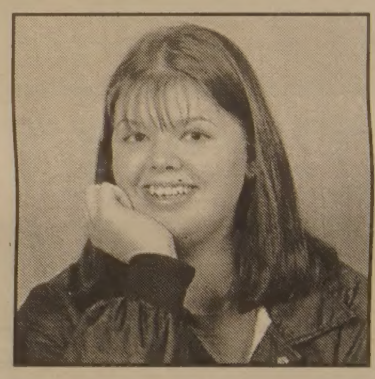
I don't know what it is that makes a person want to drive after drinking. No matter what time of day or night, other people will always be on the road.

I often see commercials about innocent children who have died in accidents caused by drunk drivers. It's stupidity that kills these children.

Before getting behind the wheel, drinkers should think of their own children, friends and siblings and ask themselves if they're ready to lose these people. One less drunk on the road could save a lot of lives.

College life could be more at age 18

By VICKI HARTLEN
Staff Writer



As this college year comes to an end, I leave with only one regret: I am not 19.

Don't get me wrong. This year was full of fun, excitement and, of course, work. The year was good at times, but it was also boring at times.

Social events, for example, continually left me excluded because I wasn't old enough. When my friends, who were 19, had fun at the college's After Hours pub, I would end up staying at home watching "Must See TV."

I'm not implying you can only have fun at college if you're 19, but it does help.

My typical week this year involved going out for dinner with friends, going to the movies and making trips out of Welland.

Sounds like a fun time for a someone who is 12. Somehow I pictured my college years being somewhat different in many aspects.

College life, in general, revolves around pub nights, bars and dance clubs. When you're 18, these are activities in which you can't participate.

Some people may think all I'm talking about is drinking and being of the age of majority, but no. Drinking isn't the only reason I wish I were 19. I'd just like to go to places, such as the pub, and decide for myself if I want to drink.

As I anticipate my birthday, I look forward to the next year of college. It is sure to be full of good times and boring times, but a year in which I can be fully involved.

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Viewpoints

Every life has its own meaning

By CASSANDRA SIMONS
Staff Writer

Life is precious, or so we've been taught. What happens when we forget that?

When a man and a woman have a baby, they look at their child with wonder and amazement. Each in his and her own way wonders how they've produced such an innocent and perfect being. The love those new parents have for their new baby is immense. Each parent has dreams for the baby and aspirations for what the baby will become.

As children grow older they need their parents less, or so it seems, but that doesn't mean parents love their children any less.

Then children become young adults. Soon they find out life isn't always as precious as they've been taught.

Young adults tend to have problems they see as unbearable. Their parents have always protected them from the problems, so young adults may not always understand why they're having a hard time.

Just because we have problems, does that mean life is worth any less? Or does it mean we have to try harder to see what's good about life?

Much can happen if people forget life is precious.

A close friend of mine once told me life is just a game. The winner is the one who has lived a full life. The loser is the one who has forgotten what life is all about and has given up.

Everyone goes through a period in life so full of stress there appears no way to turn, but if you keep hanging on you'd be surprised to find there was a reason for the bad things happening.

Day after day people go through life thinking that maybe, someday, they'll have the life they've always dreamed of having. If you give up, how will you ever know?

Wouldn't it be nice to be able to look into two big eyes that trust you with their life — at least for a little while — and love that baby unconditionally?

People have asked, "What's this life for anyway?"

That's a very scary thing to hear, because not very many people can give an answer acceptable to you.

Maybe life is just a game, not one in which you compete with other people, but one in which you compete with yourself.

However bad you think your life may be, remember it could be worse. If you focus on the good things when your life seems to be crashing down upon you, it won't seem so bad.

If you figure out how to do this maybe you'll be able to figure out what this life is for.

The meaning of life is different for each individual, which is what makes life so precious. Sure, there are bad things that happen not only in your life, but also in the world around you. You are not alone in your confusion. People all around you have felt, and maybe even now are feeling, the same way you do.

Life is precious if you can find one thing that keeps you going forward. If you lose sight of that, you may lose sight of the things that are really close to your heart.

Life needs hope

By TRACEY ALLISON
Staff Writer

The glass can be half empty or half full.

Being an optimist isn't always easy to achieve, but it is always a more rewarding lifestyle. I believe it's our attitude at the beginning of a difficult situation that, more than anything else, will direct the outcome.

I'm a believer in hope. Hope isn't pretending disappointments and problems don't exist; it's faith that they will not last forever.

I owe my great sense of optimism to my mother. She's a survivor of breast cancer, and I learned it was her positive attitude and strong hope that got her to where she is today. Even in her darkest time she found some light. Helen Keller once said, "Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadow."

I believe, in order to get what we want in life and to achieve our goals, hope is the bridge that will take us there.

There are many terrible situations, many negative attitudes, and much sorrow in this world. Without optimism and hope

we'd all live miserably and get nowhere.

We must deal with our problems and face fear and troubles. However, by having a hopeful outlook on life, we can overlook the less important everyday hassles that cause us to think negatively.

Hope is the key to success, overcoming obstacles and reaching the glory of life. I saw this through my mother's journey to survival and I hope this will always guide me through life.

Being negative about a situation will get you nowhere. I'm not saying to avoid being realistic, but to remember where there's life, there's always hope.

Innocent people dying

As a result of fighting in Kosovo

By SAM BAYLY
Staff Writer

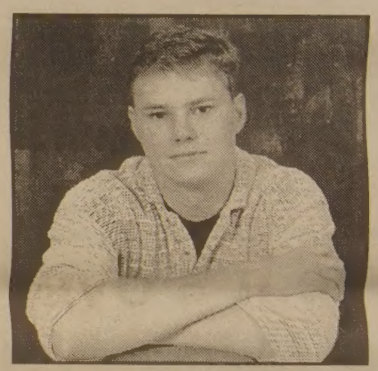
Innocent people are dying.

They aren't Canadians or Americans or others from countries in the North American Treaty Organization (NATO). They're the people unfortunate enough to be born in Yugoslavia.

When NATO decided to drop bombs on Serbia, it never expected the reaction of Slobodan Milosevic, president of Yugoslavia. Instead of giving in to NATO's demands, he increased his attacks on Kosovo.

NATO's response was simply to say Milosevic was going to do it anyway. What good has the bombing therefore done?

The military says bad weather has slowed some of their attacks on Serbian forces, but how much of the country do we want to destroy



before Milosevic gives up?

It isn't Milosevic who will suffer from having a war-torn country. It will be the men, women and children who live there that will hurt from the repercussions of this battle.

Nobody wants to send ground troops in, so NATO continues with its bombing campaign that is destroying the infrastructure and the economy, not to mention the innocent lives of civilians caught in the middle.

If we had used ground troops, the ethnic cleansing Milosevic is conducting may have stopped. Instead, according to press reports, he may already be close to completing his objective of removing the ethnic Albanians from Kosovo.

Our military leaders have allowed the attacks to continue instead of using ground forces to hold back Milosevic's army. By continuing this war from the air, they themselves are taking innocent lives. I guess we call these "casualties of war."

Nobody wants our soldiers to die in war, but we have a military for a reason. They defend the innocent. They defend democracy. We have trained these soldiers to save lives at the risk of their own.

War is expensive. The amount of money and the number of lives can cost countries dearly. If we aren't willing to risk these ourselves, then we have no business taking these things from others.

Yugoslavia and its people will pay for this war. Remember, this is not a wealthy nation.

It will not be Milosevic who pays for the damage done by NATO. The rebuilding will be paid for by the working class whose leader led them into a fight against some of the wealthiest and strongest nations in the world.

The air attacks against Milosevic's army have not worked. At this moment, our country, along with the others in NATO, has solved nothing in Yugoslavia.

We want everyone to enjoy basic human freedoms, but we must ask ourselves this: what are we willing to pay to see this dream come true?

Niagara College examine having free parking

By CRAIG STRATYCHUK
Staff Writer

Niagara College should have free parking.

Brock University does.

I know the college doesn't have a huge campus as Brock does, but would it be so bad to designate one of the many parking lots as free?

Sure, the lot would fill up fast in the morning, but the spaces would turn over lots of times during the day.

For $120 you can buy a parking

pass, a little plasticized hanger you put on the rearview mirror of your vehicle. The only thing it gives you is the relief of knowing you won't have to pull a ticket off the windshield before you leave. Honestly, there really is no security feature included with the pass. People have items stolen from their cars all the time. You might as well park on the street.

What if all the drivers in the college didn't buy a pass?

Ticket everyone?

I'm positive there are people, like me, who are trying to beat the system and park in the lots for free. I've seen your pass-less cars out there. You know who you are.

Almost all year I parked in the lots without a pass and only occasionally have I had to pay a ticket. Since the warmer weather I've found I had been removing more than an affordable number of tickets.

Alas, I am one of "them" now. For $45 I bought a pass which allows me to park in the lots ticket free. I still hate paying money to park at a school to which I've already paid tuition. Where does the money from the passes go?

Does the money buy remote barrier arms like the one over by the residence?

I'm sure there are some students who don't have the luxury of owning their own cars. So what do they do? Buy a pass for full price so they can use it half the time?

For now, I guess free parking at Niagara College includes the luxury of parking along Woodlawn or Rice Road or maybe down some unknown sidestreet.

Maybe it's time to change.

Viewpoints

Finding love on Net

I'd prefer to meet guys on the Net

By MEGAN ROSS
Staff Writer

Where does one find love?

There's a question we probably ask ourselves every day. There are the main places — bars, school, work — which are all normal places.

Why is it when someone asks you, "Where'd yah meet him/her?" and the answer is "on the Internet," you get looks of disgust?

Is it such a crime to meet people on the Internet? Those chat lines are out there, so when you can't meet a nice guy at a bar, or school or work, why not try the Internet?

Granted, there is a risk of meeting some psychopathic killer who will just want to rape you. There's the same risk of that when meeting someone at a bar.

I have met half my boyfriends on the Net. I have also been cyber-married. Now, that gets some looks.

Long distance relationships present another problem

I fell in love over the Net, or what I thought was love. I was 17, he lived in Florida, and, said "I do." The guy disappeared on me. A cyber widow? A cyber divorcee?

I met my first real boyfriend on the Net. He turned out to be a loser. That may make some people say, "Forget it, I'll look somewhere else," but not me.

If I had to make a choice, I'd prefer to meet guys on the Net. The ones I've met through school and at the Niagara College residence have turned out to be losers who use me.

The worst part is that once we break up, I have to see them again. With the Internet, it's easier to forget about the guy. He usually doesn't live nearby.

Long distance relationships present another problem.

They are tough, I admit. I'm in one now. My boyfriend, whom I met on the Net, lives in Jarvis, Ont., just over an hour's travel time from Welland.

We see each other every other weekend, since he works, and on some Tuesdays, but it doesn't matter. We've been dating for just under two months. This is the strongest relationship I've had, all because of the Internet.

There are stories about people leaving spouses for people they've met on the Internet, but you can't blame the Net for that. If partners are going to cheat on each other, they are going to do it, Internet or no Internet.

The Internet is a new way to meet people. When you're looking for love try bars, school, work — and chat lines.

Longing for home

By DESLYN DIARAM
Staff Writer

I remember waiting for the day I'd leave for college to live on my own. Now I can't wait to go home.

I thought the day I'd move out would be the greatest adventure of my life. I was wrong.

Living on my own has let me make decisions and come in as late as I want, but that's it. I haven't found as many benefits to living alone as I have for living at home with family.

I don't call living in residence in Welland, a home. It is, simply, living away for school. I left behind my best friends, my family and my home town, so how could I ever call another place home?

Some people, without much freedom of choice at home, might enjoy soloing, but either way, it's a personal choice.

Living with family offers me a feeling of comfort and support for all I do. I cherish these qualities more now. I realize how much I took for granted. I appreciate the little things that my family does for me in my everyday life. Sometimes it's the little things that make all the difference.

My advice is to experience living on your own at an early age. It'll put into perspective what your family and friends do for you.

I leave my "house" here almost every weekend to go "home" to Guelph, Ont., and relax with the people I love.

I return here Sunday night only to wait for the next weekend. Having family and friends around me, makes my good times better and my times of sorrow easier to bear.

Can't believe it's over

By SHANNON MASTALER
Staff Writer

It's hard to believe my first year of college is coming to an end.

My friends and I often talk about our first days of moving into residence or starting school. We were nervous and excited, wondering if we were going to find true friends or if we'd like our program.

When you go away to college, you make friends quickly because most students are on their own.

Most people are searching for some type of bond, or friendship, to make them feel at home and to make them feel secure in their new life.

I have been extremely lucky. I know the friends I've made will be in my life for a long time.

The year has passed very quickly. Already my friends and I are upset about leaving each other for the summer. It's going to be hard not to be able to see each other every day.

Next year is going to be another memory-filled year. It will be different because I'm living in a house with five of my friends and not in residence.

I think it will be very exciting to live completely on my own in a situation much different from residence life.

I will never forget my first year of college. It was everything I thought it would be and more. I didn't think I'd meet the kind of people I did, and I am very grateful for having met the ones I did.

The friends I have met and the bonds I have made with them will last forever. I will cherish them always.

THANK YOU!

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Profiles

Keppy in for long run, striving for more

By CASSANDRA SIMONS
Staff Writer

Brian Keppy says he's not only a teacher, but a learner as well.

Brian Keppy, 48, teaches politics and history at Niagara College in Welland.

Keppy lives in a secluded area two miles outside of Balls Falls, Ont.

He says most of the things he does he finds "very" entertaining, so "it's not even work. It's fun stuff to do."

Keppy is a busy man, but says he doesn't have to be.

"It's just that there's always really neat stuff to do."

Keppy has three finished university degrees and is working on a fourth. He says sometimes it gets a little overwhelming between teaching and learning.

He says he might not always have time to do everything he wants to do, but he just has to be able to budget his time.

"I firmly believe that anyone who can get a college diploma can get a university degree. The only difference is effort and application."

Keppy started teaching while he was getting his music degree at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont. He has been teaching for 24 years.

He says the thing that interested him in teaching is the "information itself."

"I found the information interesting and I thought it would be interesting to present it."

He says if he could change the way students pay their tuition, they would pay on a scale of excellence.

The students who get an A average wouldn't have to pay any of their tuition. The students with a B average would have to pay a quarter of the tuition. The students with a C average would have to pay half, and the students with any lower grade would have to pay the full tuition.

"I think there should be a reward for excellence because there isn't really much incentive for students to get higher marks."

Keppy says he enjoys travelling because "there is always something cool that you can see and do." He says he remembers when he was young and went to Quebec City for the first time.

"I absolutely fell in love with the city."

He says he saw the Diorama in the square by the Chateau Frontenac.

"Every time I go to Quebec City I go and see the Diorama. I don't know how many times I've seen it, but it's just the neatest thing."

Keppy says that was the first time he'd experienced "sort of the idea atmosphere, at least the first time out of this area."

He says he feels the same way when he goes to Vancouver, B.C. or to Kingston.

"I can't explain it . . . there's just an atmosphere to it."

Another thing Keppy says he enjoys doing is playing the piano.

He says he used to play professionally but now it's a hobby.

"I like to go out with the guys and play around. If people want to pay

BRIAN KEPPY

me for having fun, then that's great." He says he enjoys almost everything he does.

"I enjoy anything where I get to feel like I'm learning something."

Keppy talks about a university professor he had who was "very theatrical" and "fascinating."

He says he had trouble passing the course because he had so much fun listening to the teacher he'd forget to take notes.

"So that is the times I like most—when you just get captured and carried away and it doesn't matter what it is."

Keppy says he has rebuilt sports car engines, done pottery, weaving, oil paintings and watercolours.

He says he loves to cook because there are always new things to try out.

He says he'd love to try to learn how to glide, stain glass, try blacksmithing and lots of other things, "just to be able to say, 'I've done that.'"

"I gauge good times by how fast time flies by."

He says when you learn how to do something, you've experienced it, you've had the pleasure of doing it and you know "you'll have that knowledge forever." Then you can go on to something else, he adds.

He says when he retires he'll do the same things he is now, "except without feeling guilty or frustrated by the students."

"I would never consider stopping teaching if I felt that the students were interested in what I was saying."

He says he feels if the students weren't interested he would be just wasting his time. He says he feels he would be better off walking out of the classroom, going to his office and reading a book.

"When you walk into a classroom and only a third of the students are paying attention, you start to say, 'Like, why in the hell am I here?'"

Keppy says if he felt the students were paying attention to him then it would be "great" for him. He says he'd enjoy himself.

"I know I would feel less guilty or frustrated if I was more of an authoritarian."

Keppy says if he were prime minister there'd be one thing he'd change. He says he'd free members in all parties, if he could, to vote according to their conscience as opposed to adhering to party line.

"Because if you can't convince people you are right through the logic of your argument and through past experience, then you don't deserve to win the point."

Keppy says, by making that change, "parliament would change totally."

He says one of the things that disturbs him about today's society is speed. He says younger people have been so speeded up they talk too quickly and they slur their words together. "Everything is just so fast."

"I don't think a lot of people know how to relax, especially students."

'I've always looked upon myself as a learner . . .'

Keppy says one thing that influenced his learning and teaching skills was James Burkes' Connections, a small series of programs that showed the connections between different discoveries. It showed how every discovery connected to another discovery.

"I remember seeing the program and saying that's what knowledge should be: the connections."

Keppy says the program "really" influenced him to want to learn.

"I've never looked upon myself as a teacher. I've always looked upon myself as a learner who passes it along."

Mayor working to make a difference

By STEVE CHARRON
Staff Writer

A political career has taken flight in Port Colborne.

Mayor Vance Badawey, 34, of Port Colborne, has just celebrated his first year in office. He served as a city councillor for three years before running for mayor.

"Working to make a difference for people in the community is my main goal."

Badawey graduated from Notre Dame High School in Welland. He received a scholarship to play hockey at North Dakota State University in the U.S. Badawey spent a year and a half in North Dakota studying pre-law.

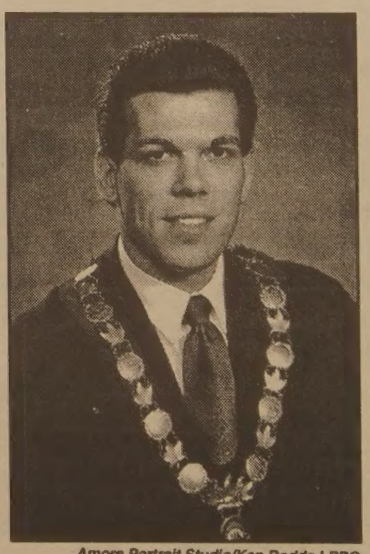
He works about 70 hours a week at City Hall. He says he helps run the family business, George Badawey Marine, with his father. It supplies groceries for the ships travelling through the Welland Canal.

"My grandfather told me that the city always worked hard for him, so he worked hard for the city."

Badawey is the third generation of his family to serve the citizens of Port Colborne. His father and grandfather were city councillors for a number of years.

He says his grandfather taught him how to deal with the public.

He says the most important thing in his life is his family. "When I got



Amore Portrait Studio/Ken Dodds LPPO

VANCE BADAWEY

married I grew up instantly," he says.

He has two sisters and a brother. "We are a very close-knit family." Badawey and his wife, Lisa, have two young children. "Life is all about family and kids," he says, adding his family is the foundation for his success.

He says he spends his spare time with friends and volunteering for various functions.

Badawey listens to all kinds of music. He says his favourite musician is the late Stevie Ray Vaughn.

He says his favourite movie is *Brian's Song*, although he prefers watching comedies. "I really don't like to come home and watch violent shows. There are too many atrocities in the world. I would rather come home and enjoy shows like *Frasier* and *Coach*."

He just finished the book *Boom Bust And Echo* by David Foote. "It was about politics and demographics. I found it captivating."

Badawey says he has always been active in a variety of sports. He travelled throughout the United States and Canada playing hockey. He played high school football. He says he excelled in soccer and played in Mexico.

Badawey has journeyed to England, Namibia and Jamaica.

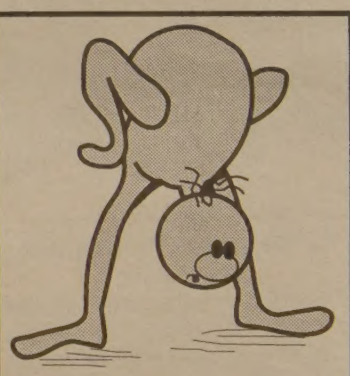
He says the late councillor Rose Shymansky was one of his role models. "She taught me compassion and to learn to grow as a person."

An inspiration for Badawey is his friend Paul Martin, Canada's finance minister. "Paul has been a good friend and is interested in a lot of the things I do."

He says years from now he'd like to become an MP or an MPP.

Badawey says the one problem with society today is apathy. "Too many people are selfish in this day and age. I have no tolerance for people who are concerned only about themselves. One thing people don't know about me is that I am very emotional. I take a lot to heart. I delve deeply into the concerns of the people."

'Life is all about family and kids,' says Badawey, adding his family is the foundation for his success



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Eye On Niagara

College teacher pauses to see world

Change from the everyday

By LEIGH BEIHL
Staff Writer

Brian Green has taught at Niagara College since 1971, and despite the series of small and windowless offices assigned to him over the years, Green has still been able to see much of the world.

"This is such a good career," says Green, relaxed in the comfort of his office at the Welland campus.

He's sitting in a high-back modular chair which, except for the large Porsche logo on its back, seems more suited to a James Bond villain intent on global domination than to a teacher patiently enduring the fumbling note-taking and disjointed questioning of a first-year Journalism-Print program student.

The office is lit only by the desk lamp, its soft glow a contrast to the glaring fluorescence out in the hall, and around him Scandinavian-styled shelving holds the many pages of his career.

"I've been given so many opportunities under the umbrella of the college," he says. "I've written books. I helped develop computer-based teaching programs. I've travelled. It's really been great."

Green came to the college 28 years ago as an English teacher in the Theatre School, a program that drew a lot of attention to the college in its early years. "It really had an excellent reputation. People still talk about it."

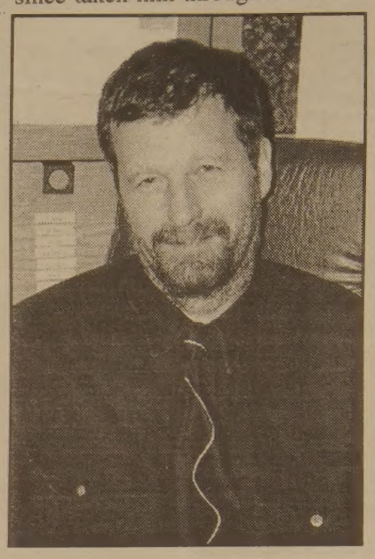
The school closed around 1980 because the college was unable to sustain the "outrageous costs" of maintaining this off-site facility. Green teaches current events to students in the Journalism-Print and Broadcasting—Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) programs, as well as broadcast journalism to the BRTF students.

Teaching and learning are an ongoing and interactive process for Green who, at 53, "can't imagine" associating exclusively with people his own age.

Green says having access to a younger generation, t! rough the actions and opinions of his students, helps to keep his own perspective fresh. "I don't always approve, but I enjoy having them around."

He stresses the importance of teachers getting out in the world to "re-charge, revise and update" to remain relevant to their students. "They shouldn't work more than four years at a time . . . or they end up teaching history."

Travel has always been an integral part of his life and an important part of his learning, he says. When he was a child, his family moved frequently when his father, an Anglican minister, was transferred from parish to parish. The wanderlust he developed then has since taken him through much of



BRIAN GREEN

Europe and parts of China.

He says experiencing different cultures is "very broadening" though he's hesitant to say which of his many destinations has been his favourite. Each one is unique and stands out in its own way, he says.

"China was certainly the most educational, the most expanding," says Green of his 10-week tour, which took him through Beijing, Hong Kong, Chang-Sha and the remote countryside of the Wu-Ling area. "It was cultural, almost shock, but more like an awakening. There was something new, different, interesting every time you turned around. I have a whole new appreciation."

Green's trip to China came about under a twinning program connecting Niagara College to a college in Chang-Sha needing assistance in its television program and with the production of a video documentary of the Wu-Ling area. Wu-Ling has "rarely been seen by Westerners" and, in photographs, resembles the ink landscapes European critics historically attributed to an artist lacking in depth perception.

There is an almost embarrassed tone in Green's voice when he speaks of the preconceptions he took with him. "We tend to think of (the Chinese) as being so serious, so intelligent, so hard-working and honest and honourable and that's it. It's so limited. They are very funny. They are so friendly and so warm and hospitable, and I'd go back. I wasn't sure what to expect when I went, but I would go back in a minute."

Slides from this trip were presented last semester to his current events class with a brief overview of China's history, its governing philosophies and its role in the world scene.

Yugoslavia stands out for Green as the most beautiful country he has visited. "Just gorgeous," he says, and especially so on the Adriatic coast where, in addition to the many historical sites which drew him, there are beaches comparable to the Riviera, and some "quite good" Slovenian and Croation wines.

The bombing of Yugoslavia strikes Green as a tragedy. "I question what NATO hopes to accomplish. They have such a love of technology and they are using all of this to avoid the loss of ground troops. Ground troops would improve the situation (for Kosovo) and Serbia is willing to accept the bombing punishment to get at Kosovo. It's a tragedy, absolute tragedy."

Green's most recent break from teaching was in the 1997-98 academic year when he took leave to update his series of textbooks: *Essay Essentials, Paragraph Essentials, Bare Essentials* and *Broadcast News Essentials*. The books "have been good to me," he says, "so I look after them. It's great to have them. It was great to write them, but it gets really boring going back over them."

Green says he will not speculate on what he sees next through his windows of opportunity. He just shrugs and smiles, leaving the impression that he can already see it. *He's just not talking.*

Life: growing, learning experience

Full of good and bad times

By MIKE DILTS
Staff Writer

Life has been a growing and a learning process, says the registrar's assistant at Niagara College in Welland.

Darla Germain, 49, was born in 1949 at the Welland County General Hospital. Growing up, she lived at 47 Barron St. with her parents, Donald and Olga Cooney, and an older sister Donna, 54.

Germain said her parents were loving, kind and nice.

"They were supportive and understanding whenever I wanted to do anything. They were very helpful, and they were always there when I needed them."

She said she looked up to her sister because Donna helped her get through a lot of life's lessons.

"She was and still is always there for me, like a sister should be, and she helped guide me through life."

At the age of 18, she met Andre Germain at a party where he was playing guitar. Germain said he was a handsome and a "very kind and gentle man."

In 1971, they married at All People United Church on Broadway Road in Welland.

"The wedding was wonderful and it was an intimate wedding. We took parts of Kahil Gibran's poems and philosophies and put them into our wedding ceremony."

Germain worked in payroll at manufacturer John Deere in Dain City from 1968 to 1973. She said she "enjoyed the experience."

"It was my first job and I learned a lot about working."

Germain later worked as an insurance adjuster for an insurance adjusting company called Morden and Helwig on Division Street in Welland from 1973 to 1976. She said she "learned a lot about insurance."

'I only wanted to work part time. I knew a couple of people that worked here and the rest is history. Fifteen years later, I'm still here.'

— Darla Germain

"I learned how things work inside, and how they do the whole process for insurance claims."

Germain stopped working when she became pregnant with her oldest son, Damian, 22. In 1979 she had her younger son, Zackary, 19. She said her children "influenced" her life a lot.

"Raising my kids was a growing and learning experience. It taught me a lot about myself and about them."

In 1975, Garmain started taking part-time courses at Niagara College in Welland, graduating in 1989 from the General Arts and Science program and receiving a certificate in Human Resources. She said she "enjoyed the courses."

"I was always taking something I always found interesting to me," she said. "I enjoyed going to school and learning."

In 1984 she started working here.

"I only wanted to work part time. I knew a couple of people that worked here and the rest is history. Fifteeen years later I'm still here."

She said the college is a "good place to work."

"I like working and dealing with the students. I enjoy helping them and being with them.

"We start students in this office right from the beginning and (take them) straight to graduation," she said. "It's kind of a whole process and we follow them right through until graduation and we do that too. Our goals are to get them through the best we can."

In her spare time she goes cross-country skiing, camping, hiking and fishing.

"I like being outdoors," she said. "I like being in the wilderness away from people and being with peace and tranquility. I like being with Mother Nature and I believe you should not mess with Mother Nature."

Germain said one of her worst traits is she is stubborn.

"I'm a perfectionist and I like things to go my way, but I'm learning to compromise."

Germain said her 49 years have taught her many valuable lessons.

"I learned that mistakes happen and no one is to blame and the best thing is to figure out how to fix it.

"I've learned there's a lot of joy when things go right and when you are successful and there can be a lot of pain when it doesn't go right. I learned don't look for blame, just fix the problem."

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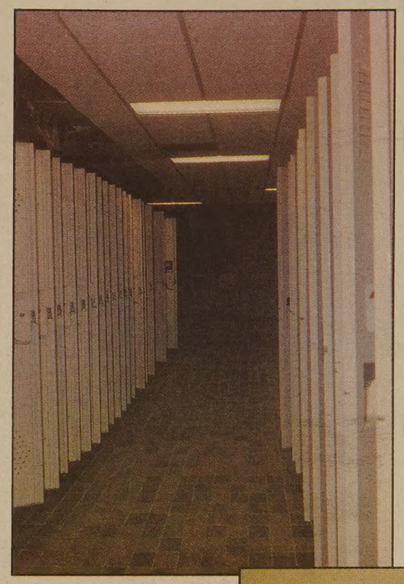

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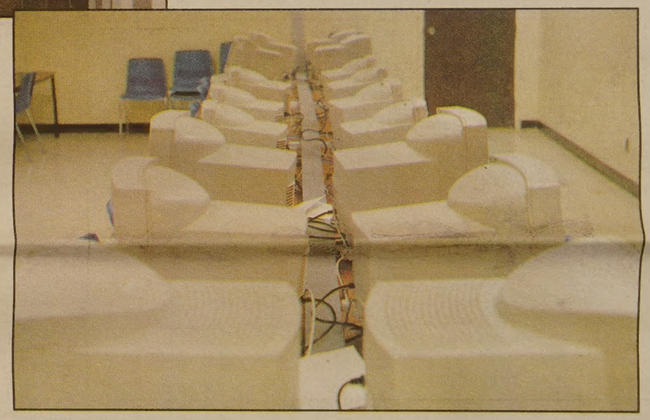

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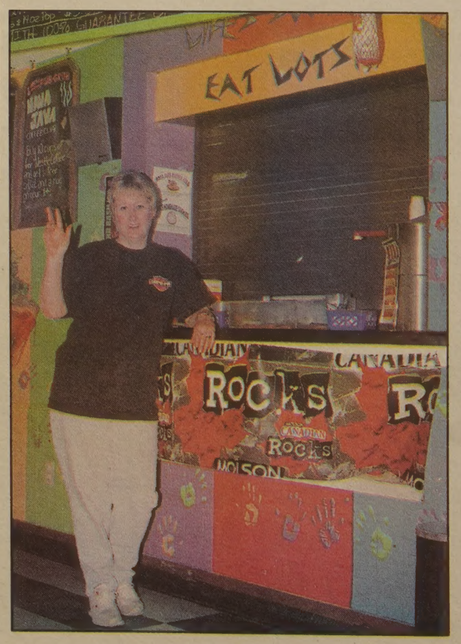

Residence

Moving away to school means changes

By SHANNON MASTALER
Staff Writer

Leaving home to go to college means a lot of changes.

Three students say living in residence can make this transition a lot easier.

Charlene Lockhart, 19, of Hamilton, attends Niagara College and is in her first year of the Educational Resource and Special Needs program.

She lives in residence and says she's happy about her decision because of the potential opportunity to meet so many new people.

"When you live on campus, you meet a lot of people, more than you would if you lived in an apartment."

Lockhart says if she was limited to the people in her program, she would be lonely.

She says although residence is "expensive, it's basically worth it." She says it's "very close" to school, and the social aspect of it keeps her from being homesick.

"I haven't even been homesick once. I thought I would have been, so it kind of surprised me when I wasn't. Sometimes, when I go home to Hamilton, I get homesick for Welland."

Although Lockhart says she enjoys residence, she does have a few complaints. "Too many rules! There is a 2 a.m. curfew for guests, and only four washing machines for over 200 people."

Lockhart says there could be more social activities. "Other residences have big social events, lots of goofy games and a real frosh week. Did we even have a frosh week? No one has any spirit at Niagara College's residence."

Lockhart says, however, these small problems are hardly enough to make her dislike the residence. "Overall, it's a great place to live when you're away from home for the first time. I definitely recommend it."

Melissa Konat, 19, of Mississauga, is enrolled in her first year of the Recreational and Leisure Services program. "I love living in residence. I have met a lot of new friends, really good friends, and it's very convenient to live here."

Konat says the friends she has made here are the "greatest ever. Everyone is so close. I've been very lucky because I met someone right across the hall who is just like me."

She says friendships are convenient in residence because everyone is in the same building.

Her complaints are few. "My only big problems are the cleaning ladies and the 2 a.m. rule."

Konat says living in residence has its downfalls, but she's happy to be there. "You can meet friends through your program, but it's not the same connection, it's not the same bond. Living here is an experience that I will remember my whole life."

Cathy Top, 20, of Belleville, is in her first year of the Travel and Tourism program. Top says she will always remember her time in residence.

Niagara College Residence where many students meet new people and have a lot of fun.
Photo by Mike Wencel

"I like it because I have met a lot of people that have become very close to me."

She says living in residence has made it easier for her to be away from home.

"Even if one of us does get sad, or miss home, we all comfort each other. It's also really busy here, so we don't really have time to think about home."

Top says she's happy with her life in residence, especially her roommate. "I got very lucky with my roommate. We get along great and have become the best of friends."

She says her complaints are along the same line as Lockhart's and Konat's. "The 2 a.m. rule makes me mad. The fact that we only have four washing machines, and the front desk never has any change for the washing machines. Maybe a change machine would be a good investment!"

Top says her complaints are minimal. "It's a great place to live, and it's a good idea for first-year students to live here too."

She says she is "incredibly happy" with her decision to live in residence.

"There are always things that people would like to have different, but I think there are more good than bad things about living here. I would do it again this way in a second."

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Rez costly but fun

By MIKE WENCEL
Staff Writer

Living in the Niagara College Residence is an expensive way to attend college but a good way to meet new people, say three college students.

The students complain there are too many rules, it's too expensive and there aren't enough facilities for the students, causing them to give the residence the thumbs down.

However, the students also give a thumbs up because they're able to meet new people and experience a good social life.

Carrie Mifsud, 19, of Burlington, a first-year student in the Business Administration program, says she chose Niagara College because "it's away from home, but not too far, so I can go home on the weekends."

Mifsud says she enjoys college life so far, adding "meeting new people and the challenge my program gives me keeps my life busy."

The only downside to Mifsud's college life is the residence. "It's too small, (has) too many rules and (is) not sufficient to my needs," she says.

"The price is too high for what we get . . ." she says, adding "The maids do a really poor job because I always have to clean up after they're done."

Asked what improvements could be made, Mifsud says, "more carefree (rules) on guests, more facilities and lower the price of living."

Jenanne Bowie, 19, of Emsdale, Ont., a first-year student in the Construction Engineering Technology—Architecture program, says, "Residence is a wonderful place to live if you're in first year because you get to meet a lot of new people.

"It's in a perfect location for me to get to school, and within walking distance to the mall."

Bowie says there are some drawbacks to living in residence and suggests some improvements could be made. "They could lower the cost of living and increase the size of laundry facilities."

Jessica Ornato, 20, of London, Ont., a first-year student in the Health Science Preparatory program, says she chose Niagara "to meet new people and because of the quiet neighbourhood.

"Residence is a pretty good place to live, but it's very costly," says Ornato.

Costs include $1.25 for a load of laundry, $5 for an overnight guest, and $3,200 for room and board a year.

Ornato's other complaint is the restrictive rules the residence applies. "It feels like I'm a little kid and someone's always looking over my shoulder. They need to treat us like adults."

However, she adds, "Residence is a comfortable place to live, an easy way to meet new people and a lot of fun."

Eye On Niagara

Students face reality

By NATSUKO TAMURA
Staff Writer

Some got what they expected, but others didn't — that's reality.

Hyoin Lee, 24, of Korea, is a first-year student in the Early Childhood Education program at Niagara College.

She came to Canada in January 1996 and studied English at Niagara College for two terms. She went to Brock University in St. Catharines and took one semester of the English as a Second Language program because she wanted a change.

She says, "I didn't like it at all," adding she liked Niagara better. After taking a break for a year, she came back to the college.

Lee says she didn't really want to get into the program at first. She says she decided to take it because it was her dream, as a little girl, to become an elementary school teacher. "I was not sure what I wanted to do at that time."

Lee says she "really" enjoys the program. As practical training, she works nine hours a week at the college's day-care centre. She takes care of children ages one to two years. She helps with "everything" they need, such as cleaning and getting dressed as well as playing with them. She "loves it," adding the children are "so adorable."

Along with the hands-on experience, Lee says she enjoys other classes, such as sociology and psychology. She says it's "very" interesting to learn at each stage of a child's development.

Asked about her future, she says she wants to get a job in Canada for a few years and hopes to work at a day-care centre in Korea in the future.

Pauline Wiebe, 21, of St. Catharines, is in first-year Office Administration program.

She says she took the Human Relations program for a year and enjoyed it, but "it didn't give me a specific path to go on." As she wanted to learn something practical in a real workplace, she decided to switch to the Office Administration program.

Wiebe says she likes the program, and everything is "pretty good. You have time to work on your own and you have time to communicate with other people." She enjoys working with people.

Asked about her teachers, she says they're "very nice," and "easy to talk to." She says when she had a problem with a teacher, she went to talk to her. "She listened to me and apologized, and gave me her opinions too."

In her spare time, she works at a beer store in St. Catharines. "It's a fun job." She doesn't usually take part in the Student Administrative Council-sponsored activity though she goes to the pub night once in a while.

Wiebe says she's planning to take Medical Office Terminology for a night course after getting her diploma since she wants to work in a doctor's office or hospital as a secretary or a program organizer.

Melissa Marshall, 19, of Niagara Falls, is in her second year of the Human Relations program..

She says she doesn't like the program and it's a "waste of money" because the program is "a little of everything" and "not specific." She says she particularly didn't like the group work and projects. On the other hand, she likes computer and psychology classes.

Marshall says she didn't want to narrow down what to study, so she took a general study program.

As a part-time job, she works as a clerk at the National Defence building in St. Catharines. She's been working there since she was in high school and likes it because she's "very busy" working and going to school.

Though Marshall says she doesn't enjoy the program, she'll finish it. "I want to be a cop," she says, adding she's returning in September for a computer or Police Foundations program. She says she wants to try something new. "I'm still young."

Getting a trim

St. Catharines School of Hair Dressing graduates cut students hair for $5 at Niagara College to help out the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film students film productions. The event took place April 13 - 15.

Photo by Mark Garrett

He's going to pump you up

By CARENE GRANT
Staff Writer

Niagara College student Lee Romanovich, 23, of Sarnia, Ont., has been working at the Niagara College Welland campus weight room for the past two years.

During his employment, Romanovich says he has enjoyed the responsibilities of monitoring the weight room, assisting people in their weight training, and designing workout programs for various individuals.

Asked what benefits he received from working in the gym, Romanovich says he enjoys the satisfaction of seeing people succeed in their workouts.

He says he enjoys being able to do his own workouts while on the job.

"Being focused and determined helps me keep up my school work as well as my other hobbies."

Although he does get tired, Romanovich says he remains dedicated and refuses to give up.

Romanovich says he enjoys his job.

"The pay isn't that great. If that's the one thing that I could change, that would be it.

"But I don't work just for the money. I do it because I enjoy it."

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Battle of the Bands

The Bang Theory No. 1 at After Hours

By MARK GARRETT
Staff Writer

The Bang Theory came out on top at the fourth annual Battle of the Bands at Niagara College's After Hours pub on April 7.

Around 60 people watched seven bands compete for the first prize. Competitors were Fuzzbug, August 50, Phuse, Damaskus, Sunday Punch, Fozzy and the Bang Theory.

First-place winners, The Bang Theory, won $500 worth of recording time at Prodigy and Resources in St. Catharines and will go to Lee's Palace in Toronto for the regional competition against other Ontario colleges.

The winners there will go on to Nova Scotia in June to compete nationally.

Second-place winners here were Fozzy and third-place winners were Damaskus. "Second is still great. There was lots of good bands," says Fozzy's bassist Mike Reles.

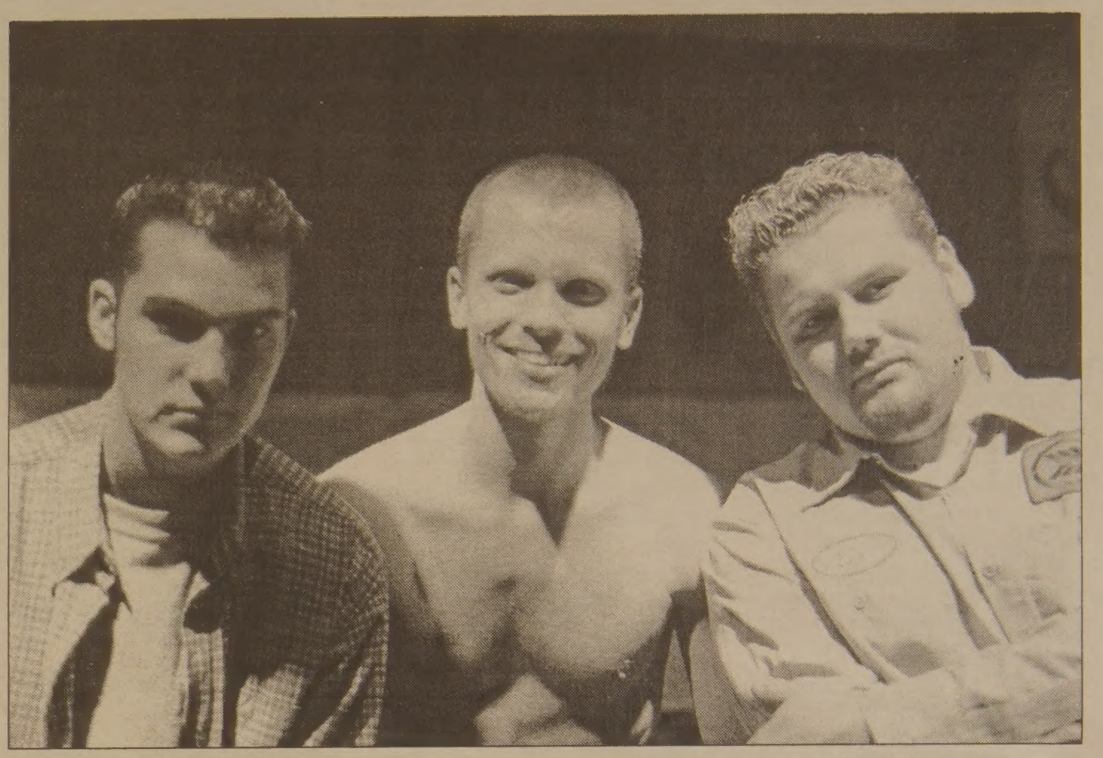
"I wasn't expecting the win," says The Bang Theory's drummer Eric Valcourt. Guitarist Paul Palmalinowski says the win was a "pleasant surprise."

Sabu, The Bang Theory's bassist, says, "There were a lot of good bands and I was impressed by the other bands."

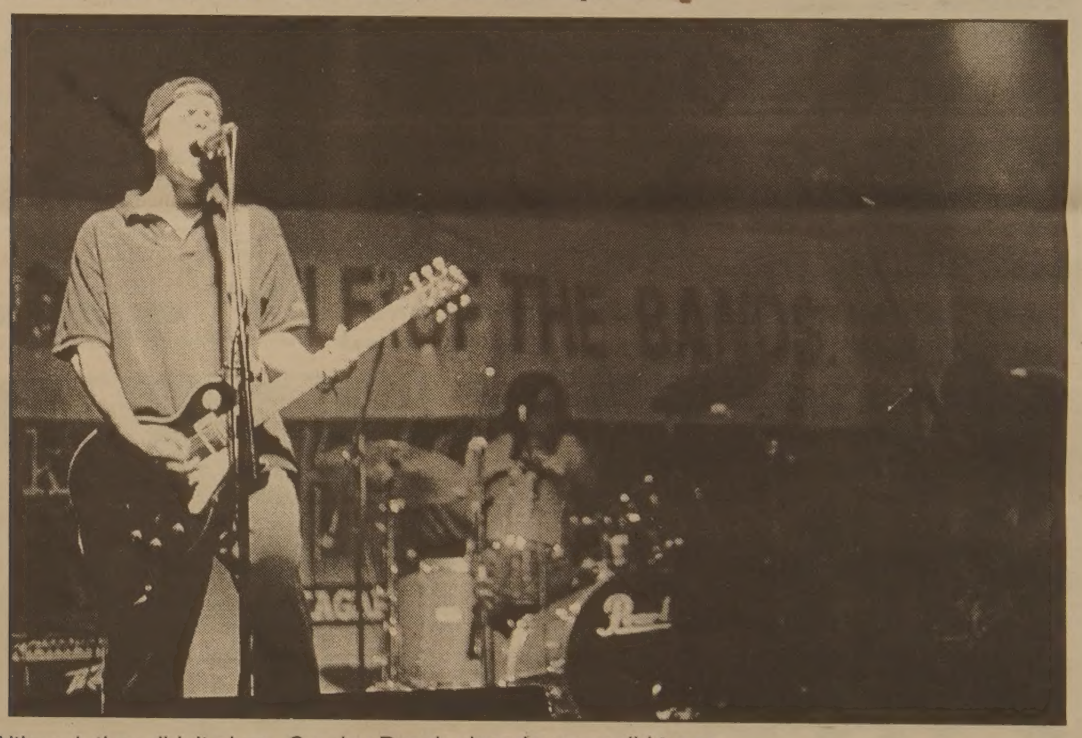
The Bang Theory has played "a couple of times live," says Palmalinowski. "We just like to have fun and show people a good time," adding the only preparation for Lee's Palace is to get "a little more crazier."

Lisa Bernardi, 19, of Welland, says the show was "good." Bonnie McQueen says the show was "excellent and well organized." McQueen is a General Arts and Science student at Niagara College.

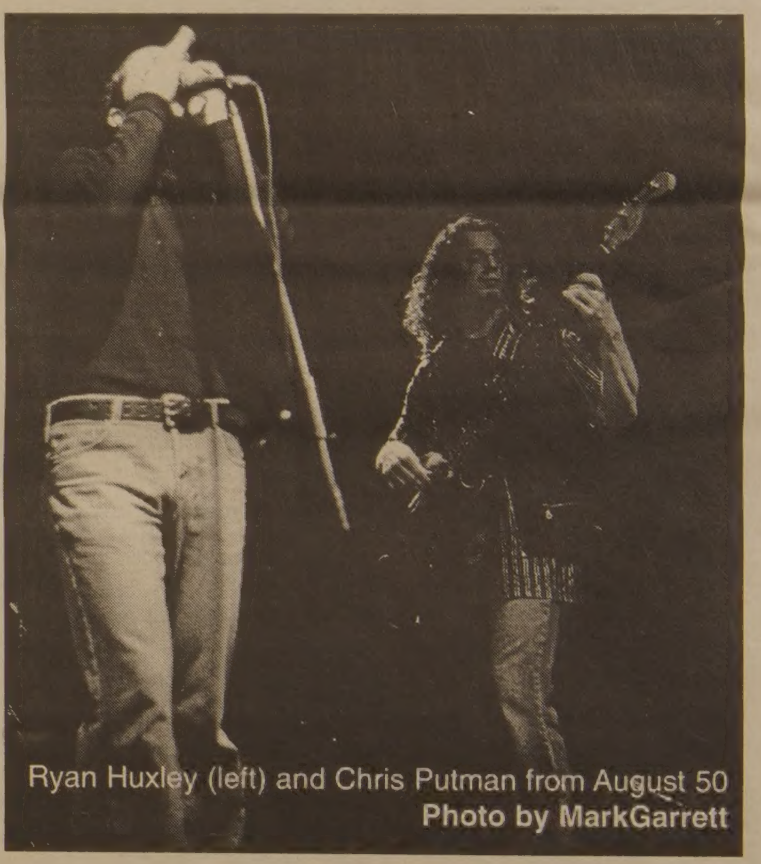
David Rapelje, After Hours manager, says he got the bands to come by "advertising on the campus radio." He says most of the bands are from the region and this competition means "bands have a chance to get out of the basement and be heard." There was "really" no cost to put the show on. Central Music in Welland donated the drums and the bass amplifier.



The Bang Theory from left Eric Valcourt, Sabu and Paul Palmalinowski.
Photo by Mark Garrett

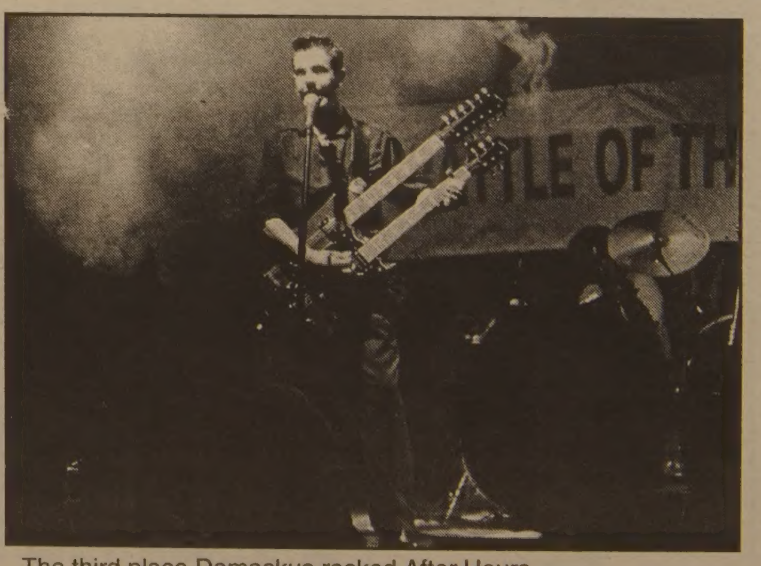


Although they didn't place, Sunday Punch played some solid tunes.
Photo by Sam Bayly



Ryan Huxley (left) and Chris Putman from August 50
Photo by MarkGarrett

The Bang Theory electrified After Hours April 7. From left Paul Palmalinowski, Eric Valcourt and Sabu.
Photo by Mark Garrett



The third place Damaskus rocked After Hours.
Photo by Sam Bayly

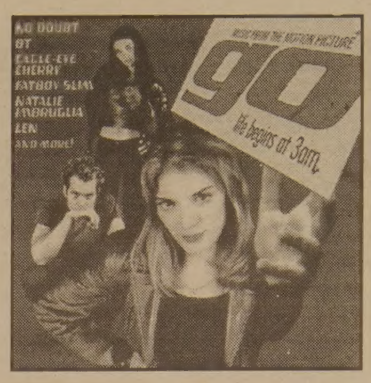
Rave Reviews

Soundtrack good for summer grooving

By SAM BAYLY
Staff Writer

Go — Music from the Motion Picture gives the listener a variety of ear-pleasing music.

These artists' music range from alternative rock, to pop and dance funk. Most of the beats have been done moderately, with only a few songs going full out. Fatboy Slim's single *Gangster Tripping* is one of the more



upbeat tracks although it's a void lyrically.

Ear-pleasing

On the CD is the long-awaited single from No Doubt titled *New*. It's another of the fast-beat tracks that kicks off the CD and has been used in the **Go** movie previews.

The remake of Steppenwolf's *Magic Carpet Ride*, produced by Philip Steir, was done to give it a '90s dance sound. It adds heavy bass and techno-style grooves while still keeping many of the original song's features.

Natalie Imbruglia's *Troubled by the Way We Came Together* is one of the softer tracks. Imbruglia's beautiful voice, along with the stirring musical background, makes it one of the best songs on the CD.

Steal My Sunshine by Len is an enjoyable pop song. It adds a summertime flavour.

Other featured artists are Jimmy Luxury and the Tommy Rome Orchestra, Esthero with Danny Saber, Lionrock, Goldo, DJ Rap, BT, Eagle-Eye Cherry, Air French Band and Leftfield featuring Nicole Willis.

This CD is a good addition to anyone's collection and will make for a good summer party or car-driving listening.

Sultry sounds make for easy listening

By RYAN HOLIERHOEK
Staff Writer

Just sit down, press "Play," close your eyes and start bobbing your head. Ginuwine is back and he's smoother than ever before.

After exploding onto the rhythm and blues charts in 1996 with his debut album, **The Bachelor,** Ginuwine has graced us again with his soulful stylings, this time with **100% Ginuwine**.

On this sultry 14-track CD, Ginuwine grabs you right from the start and takes you on a lyrical ride, dropping you off right where you started but wanting more. He's a cross between R. Kelly and Michael Jackson—only Ginuwine has talent.

Talent

A highlight of the album is the "bomb" beats laid down by the platinum-selling superstar

Timberland. In an industry full of copying and sampling, it's refreshing to hear some original beats for a change. Timberland more than delivers on that account.

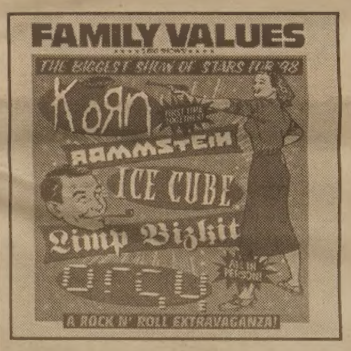
Other highlights of the album are the tracks *What's So Different,* which is destined for years of club play, *Do You Remember*, *Two Sides to a Story* and *She's Out Of My Life,* all heart-filled ballads that make you wonder what girl hurt this guy so badly.

If you have the first album, or even if you enjoy the rhythm and blues style of music, this album is a must-have. If you don't care for this style and tend to be more of a rock'n'roll person, pick up this album anyway. You may just change your mind.

Accept only **100% Ginuwine.**

Four stars out of five.

Korn's Family Values



By MONICA PALINIEWICZ
Staff Writer

Korn's new album is out capturing all the manic energy from its **1998 Family Values Tour**. This album features live performances by Incubus, Orgy, Limp Bizkit, Ice Cube, Rammestein and, of course, Korn.

Such tracks as Orgy's cover of *New Order's Blue Monday* and Rammestein's *Du Hast* give the CD a diverse taste of what is normally expected from a Korn tour.

Limp Bizkit's distinctive shouts and heavy sound add to the hysteria as lead singer Fred Durst covers George Michaels' *Faith* and House of Pain's *Jump Around.*

Ice Cube delivers the hip hop/rap portion of the tour with tremendous success and Incubus presents a stellar sound with the song *New Skin.*

Korn, of course, gives an excellent performance with such songs as *Shoots and Ladders, Twist, Freak on a Leash* and *Got the Life.*

Overall, it's an excellent CD and highly recommended to all past and present fans of any of the featured bands.

If you're really interested, check out the Family Values Tour on video.

Artists break from norm

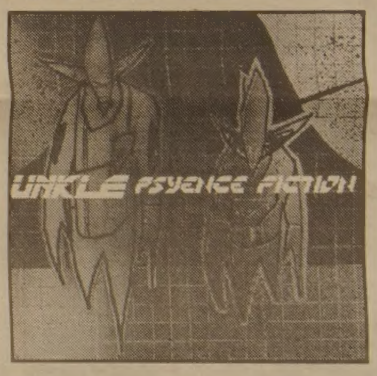
By MONICA PALINIEWICZ
Staff Writer

Unkle, in a fairly recent collaboration between DJ Shadow and James Lavelle, has brought forth a CD, **Psyence Fiction**, with a huge diversity.

From drum and bass beats to lazy and melodic sounds, Unkle delivers a great combination that includes guest vocals.

Thom Yorke, of Radiohead, appears on the track *Rabbit in your Headlights*. The video of which is getting frequent airplay on MuchMusic.

Richard Ashcroft, of The



Diverse

Verve, known for his distinct, melancholic sound, makes a guest appearance in the song *Lonely Soul.*

Mike D, of the Beastie Boys, also performs on this album with the track *Celestial Annihilation*, which maintains the Beastie Boys' sound with a more technologically advanced beat and some samples.

This CD is amazing when it comes to originality. If you're looking for diverse artists going in their own direction and breaking from the norm, Unkle's **Psyence Fiction** is the CD for you.

Looking for something different

By KYM CRAWFORD
Staff Writer

Get ready to take a voyage with The Fantastic Plastic Machine's self-titled debut CD.

The CD, featured on the Emperor Norton Record label, was extremely hard to find because it is a Japanese import. It's well worth the search. After some convincing, the CD clerk sold me his reserved copy, and I'm glad he did!

The CD was performed, produced and sampled by Tomoyuki Tanaka. Although not quite mainstream, the album fea-

Different

tures guest vocal appearances from other groups such as Gentle People and Pizzicato Five.

After some contemplation as to how to label this particular style of music, I realized it would be impossible. There's such a variety, there's bound to be something for everyone. The music ranges from 60s' psychedelic pop, Bossa Nova, lounge and then some dance beats thrown in, just for fun.

If you're looking for something different and fun to add to your CD collection, I highly recommend this one.

Calling All Bands

ATTENTION NIAGARA AREA INDIE BANDS

Beginning in September of 1999, the Niagara News will once again publish 16 editions during the 1999-2000 college academic year. *"Riding the Riff IV,"* will be published in March and each year we have many bands that, because of time and space, do not get in to this popular pull-out section. If your band isn't getting the exposure it wants maybe this will work for you! *"Riding the Riff IV,"* will be comprised of 16 bands and will be published in March 2000. *Plus,* during the Niagara News' publishing year your band will have a feature in our Entertainment section.

The cost for the *DOUBLE EXPOSURE* is $125 and is on a first-come, first-paid basis.

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Entertainment

New solo release from talented Edwin

By JENNIFER ATANAS
Staff Writer

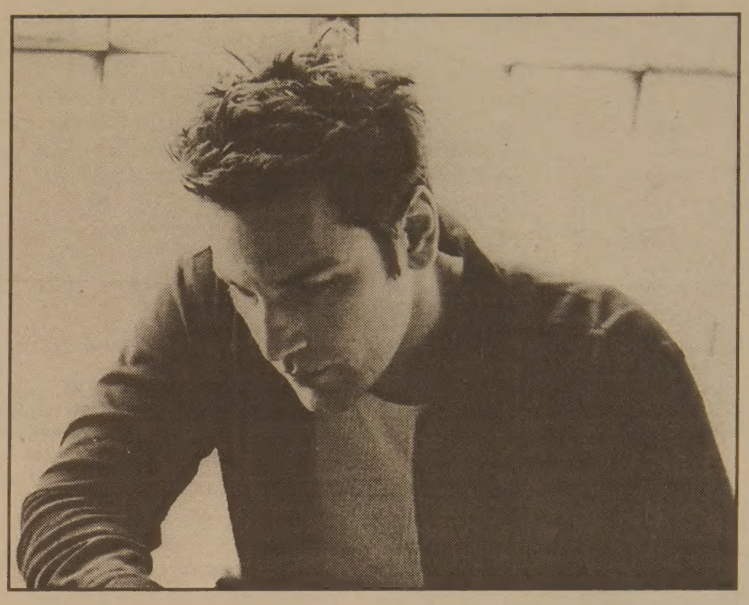
Edwin has recently left the band I Mother Earth (IME) and found success in his new solo career.

Ex-frontman for the multi-platinum and award-wining band, I Mother Earth, Edwin said recently, in an online press conference, the time he's spent creating music as an individual artist has been beneficial to him in every way. "It has benefited me mentally, spiritually, emotionally and musically."

"I'm of the belief that you can look forever for happiness externally and always be chasing it forever, but true happiness only comes from deep inside."

The first time Edwin said he performed live was in high school. "I was in Grade 12, in high school. It was a small bar in Etobicoke and we played 80 per cent covers including Kiss, Def Leopard, Queen, etc. I still have the board tape from that show and listen to it occasionally, just to keep me humble."

Long after his high school experience, Edwin began to perform with Jagori Tanna, Bruce Gordon and Christian Tanna, who formed IME. The band released two albums and had countless sold-out tours. After much fame and success, in September 1997, Edwin shocked many fans by deciding to go solo, at the height of the band's career.



Edwin has taken a solo path for his career.
Photo by Steven Carty, Courtesy EPIC.

Edwin said his decision was a result of his and his "ex-band mates' growing apart." Now on his own, Edwin said he'd be honoured to have the support he once had from his old IME fans, on his record. "I wouldn't trade the IME experience for anything."

His debut album, **Another Spin Around the Sun**, is to be released on April 27. The theme, taken from novelist Ernest Hemingway's writing, describes the connection between a man and the sea and is a metaphor for a body of water representing the adventures in life.

The first single, entitled *Trippin* , is about "how we are all stars, not just 'cuz you sing or act but because we all feel the same things and the same fears. The way we pull through, make us all stars," said Edwin.

'The way we pull through makes us all stars.'
—Edwin

The album, which took over a year to write, was recorded with producer/engineer Matt DeMatto, who has worked recently with Ashley MacIsaac and Big Wreck.

Edwin said the album has meant a lot to him: "Pure joy, fear, anxiety, stress and excitement all rolled into 11 expressive journeys."

Creating an album, especially a first, involves criticism, said Edwin. "No one makes a record without criticism, but there comes a time when you accept it for what it is and if it fell short in any way, you hope to correct it on the next one."

Choosing an online press conference was convenient because "it was a way to keep in touch with fans whom I've been out of touch with for the last couple of years," said Edwin. Some days Edwin said he does not enjoy press conferences and interviews because "the media has a tendency to misquote, incriminate and judge on little or no facts. However, it's a catch 22 'cuz us artists definitely need the media, so we can only hope for the truth to be the main goal."

Sony Music Canada describes Edwin as being a unique artist. Edwin said he's always been a "very organic" singer, but it never showed.

"It never truly came across that I could sing. I wanted to tap into the various, flavours, tastes and qualities in my voice. I think I've done that on this disc."

Television lies

Not everything you see is the truth

By MONICA PALINIEWICZ
Staff Writer

I've noticed something alarming lately. There is a widening gap between the "television world" and reality.

When you're young, you generally adopt the maxim, "If it's on television then it's true."

Sad is the day when you realize television is such a distorted reflection of reality it transcends the term "fiction."

Just look at some difficulties of mass media victims: anorexia, alcoholism, drug abuse, violence and desensitization.

Take, for instance, such shows as Melrose Place or Beverly Hills 90210. The actors are all model-like in appearance and give the impression that promiscuity is tolerable.

Other shows, such as The Simpsons or Southpark, give children the notion that the crazy antics of the characters are permitted in real life.

Regardless, television is deceiving about how we should look, speak and act.

Some people may sit in front of the television for hours at a time, absorbing all the fictitious portrayals of what's considered "acceptable" in society.

Then before you know it, the viewers become victims.

It's saddening to see something, supposedly a source of entertainment, turning into a complex issue needing screening and rating before entering millions of homes.

Tune out the exploitations and expectations enforced through the media. Turn the television off.

Television is a misrepresentation of real life and real people.

Barrymore has Never Been Kissed

By RYAN HOLIERHOEK
Staff Writer

Photo by Suzanne Hanover. Copyright 1999 Twentieth Century Fox.

Drew Barrymore, from the **Wedding Singer,** is back.

This time she takes on the role of Josie Geller, a young reporter sent back to high school to write about contemporary youth, in **Never Been Kissed**.

She goes back to high school undercover and tries to become a member of the "in" crowd.

She finds this very difficult because of her lack of popularity in her own high school days. Her brother then decides to help her by going undercover himself. You get two guesses how it ends.

Barrymore is very convincing as an unpopular girl and seems to feel right at home acting as a geek.

The movie gives off a nice warm feeling to its viewers. You feel bad for Geller, but at the same time you relate to her.

The movie makes its viewers think about their own high school days, thereby creating a bond with the actors on the screen.

By the same account, though, there was too much effort put forth in trying to make people relate to the characters. The movie would have gone more smoothly if the viewers had been allowed to develop those feelings on their own.

Never Been Kissed is a perfect movie for a group of friends to see together. It'll keep you talking about your own high school experiences more than the ones in the movie.

It's not a must see, and it will probably do better as a video rental. Seven out of 10 stars.

Summer students must register their locker number with the college's registrar's office by May 14. All locks must be removed and contents taken out of lockers by May 28. The college is not responsible for locker contents after May 28.

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Entertainment

Manson burns flag

By MEGAN ROSS
Staff Writer

Vulgar, but oddly intoxicating — that's how I'd describe the Marilyn Manson concert in Buffalo, N.Y. at Marine Midland Arena, on April 11.

The original opening act was Hole, but they were replaced with Nashville Pussy, when Hole quit as a result of differences.

Nashville Pussy was a boring band whose members seemed to like jumping around like idiots more than playing good music. All their songs sounded alike.

The band consisted of a male lead singer, drummer and two female guitarists, who at one point started making out while playing. "Female necking was fun," commented Steve Miles, 24, of Jarvis, Ont.

'He was amazing' -Sandie Souter

Manson started his concert by rising on a cross, which he later lit. Fire seemed to be a major part of this concert, since he later lit the American flag.

At one point, the stage's backdrop was an American flag with the "shock symbol" in place of the stars. He dressed up as a police officer to sing the *Irresponsible Hate Anthem*. At the end of the song, he was shot.

Manson mocked dictator Adolf Hitler as he sang *Anti-Christ Superstar*. He stood on a podium decorated with the "shock symbol" on the front and banners on the backdrop.

He had the people at the concert hypnotized. I'm sure they'd have followed him as the Germans did Hitler.

He also made a speech about how God came down to talk to him and told him He didn't want his name to be spelled G-O-D. He wanted it spelled D-R-U-G-S. This was the introduction for *I Don't Like the Drugs, but the Drugs Like Me*.

Manson appeared on stilts while he sang *Machinal Animals*.

He pulled down his pants, to show the audience his bum and also laid down on the stage and faked an orgasm as a member of his band, Johnny 5, leaned down and licked him.

It was a very interesting concert. "That was awesome. No words (to describe it)," Becky Davis, 20, of Stoney Creek, Ont., said after the concert.

"He was . . . amazing!" Sandie Souter, 19, of Stoney Creek said. "I was killed, shaking and killed again."

"He made all my . . . sexual fantasies come true . . . and more," said Amanda Stevenson, 24. "(I) was almost humping my chair."

Old bands lead to new

Bands over history have paved the way for today's music

By DARYL SMITH
Staff Writer

Elvis Presley, The Beatles, Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath and Nirvana — these are the five bands with the biggest influence in music history.

Obviously there are more that have had huge influences on music, but these five are the main ones.

Presley, the king of rock 'n' roll, started the music we hear today. Teenagers loved him and older people hated him. Most people don't give Presley enough respect for what he has done for the music industry. Presley changed the music industry with a shake of his hips.

The Beatles started the British invasion and may be the most influential band in music history. Their talent for finding catchy guitar riffs and drug-oriented lyrics made them the heart-throbs of the '60s.

With such hits as *Hey Jude, Let it Be*, and *I am the Walrus*, the Beatles have about 10 songs in the top 100 of all time.

Led Zeppelin is the most talented band ever to play music. Jimmy Page was so much ahead of his time, people still can't figure out some of his guitar techniques. Zeppelin clicked so well as a band that, at some of their concerts, they wouldn't even know what song they were going to play. They'd just play off each other.

'The Beatles may be the most influential band in music history'

Zeppelin is second to the Beatles in total CD sales, and it's my guess they'll eventually surpass them.

Black Sabbath is the dark side of music. Sabbath was everything the '60s weren't. They were dark and mysterious, but there was no doubt about the talent they possessed.

Sabbath are the pioneers of heavy metal and started something even they thought was impossible: making heavy metal popular. Sabbath is still going strong after 30 years of playing music.

'Zeppelin is the most talented band ever to play'

Nirvana came out of nowhere and hit the world by storm taking grunge-style music and turning it into a lifestyle. The early '90s were full of bands moving to Seattle hoping to make it big as so many other bands had done. Nirvana weren't that talented as a band, but teenagers seemed to relate to their deep style of music.

Lead singer Kurt Cobain's death just seemed to make Nirvana stronger than ever.

These bands have done something all bands would love to do: change the world with a tune from a guitar.

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Eye On Niagara

CAW launches 'fight back' campaign

By PENNI LAFLEUR
Staff Writer

Union leaders want help from area politicians and the community as 1,100 General Motors members face the unemployment line this September in St. Catharines.

Wayne Gates, Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 199 president, said, "We build the best motor in the corporation . . . Holding on to good jobs and fighting for lost jobs are the issues in this fight-back campaign."

'Just by being in Canada GM makes money.'
— Buzz Hargrove

He estimates the lost "spin-off jobs" total 5,000.

The GM facility's economic advantages were highlighted in a press conference held on April 7. Promoting the site for future businesses will be a joint effort of local management, CAW Local 199 and regional and provincial government officials.

Jim Stanford, of Halifax, CAW economist, opened the session by highlighting the importance of preserving high-value parts production.

He said GM "saves over $15 (US) on each hour of labour hired in Canada" because of the Canadian dollar's lower value, and health care savings.

"For the St. Catharines parts operations working with 6,000 full-time employees, this translates into an annual labour cost saving of $275 million (Cdn) on straight-time hours alone."

The V8 engine plant here is the most productive in North America, according to the independent Harbour Report of Productivity in Powertrain Operations.

Stanford said productivity is higher than GM's average. "It takes 70 minutes less to assemble an engine at St. Catharines than at the Flint V8 plant (GM's next most productive V8 engine plant in Michigan)." Labour costs are 45 per cent lower.

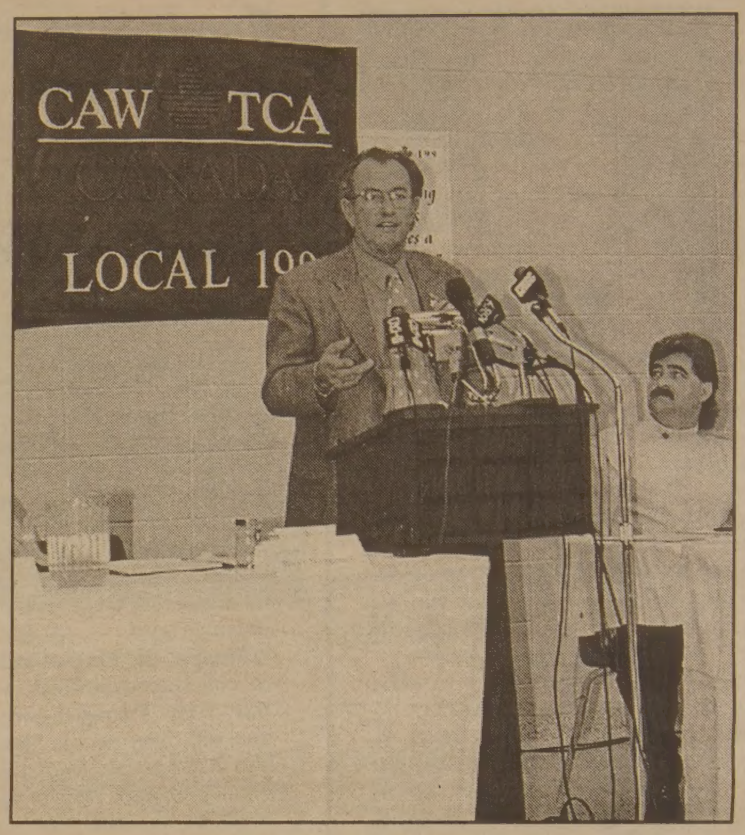
Stanford said, "Thanks to the low costs and high productivity of its Canadian operations, GM has generated very healthy profits in Canada throughout the 1990s."

GM Canada hasn't disclosed financial statements since 1997, he said, adding, conservative estimates suggest total profits of $1.75 billion in 1997 and $750 million in 1998.

GM's total Canadian profits have equaled about $6 billion over the past six years, "larger even than a major bank."

CAW calculations indicate that for over a decade, GM has earned more profits per vehicle in Canada than its North American auto operations (NAO) on average. From 1993 to 1997 it's estimated GM earned 75 per cent of total NAO profits in Canada, even though Canada accounts for about 15 per cent of GM's total North American assembly, Stanford said.

"Maybe the reason why they don't announce money made in Canada and only in North America is because they don't want the shareholders to know Canada is profitable when closing it down," Gates said.



Buzz Hargrove, CAW national president, speaks at the press conference. Seated at right is Wayne Gates, president of CAW Local 199.

Photo by Penni Lafleur

Employment at GM's facilities in St. Catharines has declined steadily over the past decade.

The St. Catharines complex employs less than 5,000 hourly workers, 60 per cent of levels in the late 1980s. Some 3,000 jobs have been lost in 10 years, representing $150 million a year in lost wages to the Niagara regional economy.

That's in contrast to a "near-spectacular turnaround" for manufacturing employment in Ontario, Stanford said.

Total employment in the Niagara region and in the provincial-manufacturing sector have increased by 20 per cent since the bottom of the last recession in 1993.

Besides lower labour costs, Ontario also has the advantage in having an average cost saving of about six per cent over southern U.S. sites, a 1996 KPMG study reports, Stanford said.

Labour-management stability is another plus. No strikes can be called during the three-year agreement. Canada had two strikes at GM since 1980, versus more than 20 in the U.S.

Buzz Hargrove, CAW national president, said, "We show a strong case why GM should put more workers in Canada. Just by being in Canada GM makes money."

According to CAW research, St. Catharines's advantages include significant labour cost savings, higher productivity than U.S. facilities, central location in the auto manufacturing heartland and stable labour relations.

"We are entitled to better treatment than what we are receiving from GM. No one can say there is a problem with the workforce," said Hargrove.

Hargrove appealed to politicians: "The decision-making process is so cumbersome I can't do it alone. I need help."

Niagara Regional Chair Debbie Zimmerman offered assistance in recognizing the loss of industry to the Niagara region. She said a 1998 study by KPMG was presented to Regional Council recently indicating a "very competitive advantage to this region. We need to recognize it as one of the sleeping giants in the world."

In closing, Hargrove said, "We've got to get them (GM) to see we are the most profitable. There should be total industry in Canada. Political pressure plays an important role in every decision."

NIAGARA NEWS PUBLISHING SCHEDULE 1999-2000

The Niagara News has 16 editions planned for the 1999-2000 academic year.

1999	2000
OCT. 1	JAN. 21
OCT. 15	JAN. 28
OCT. 29	FEB. 4
NOV. 12	FEB. 11
NOV. 26	FEB. 18
	BREAK WEEK
DEC. 10 (CHRISTMAS)	MARCH 10
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Eye On Niagara

Niagara police, college partner for training

By TRACEY ALLISON
Staff Writer

The Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) and Niagara College are partners.

According to NRPS Chief Grant Waddell, the agreement "combines state-of-the-art police service training, the education of our future police officers, as well as exploring opportunities for new joint developments in public safety initiatives — all under one roof."

It formalizes a commitment to establish joint programming and training opportunities for Niagara's police service and police agencies across the province. This agreement, signed on March 25 at the Police Services Board meeting in St. Catharines, is moving towards the development of a centre for Policing and Community Safety Studies to be at Niagara College in Welland.

Niagara was chosen because "for many years there has been strong, mutual communication between the police department and the college," said Gary Nicholls, NRPS deputy chief.

He said the facility training unit is being renovated and is expected to be ready in 12 to 15 months. This centre will include a live-fire training range, a specialized space for "use of force" training, "hand-to-hand" combat training and defensive tactics training, said Nicholls.

Niagara was chosen because 'for many years there has been strong, mutual communication between the police department and the college.' — Gary Nicholls

A new state-of-the-art video simulation unit, a video production unit and office and locker facilities will be provided for police and trainees.

Nicholls said the range will be located behind the Welland campus Annex buildings on the property where the tennis courts are.

"This centre will be mutually beneficial for the police and the college. The police will benefit through the location, a prime location on the campus of one of the premier colleges in the province."

He said the college will benefit from the exchange of personnel, resources and the furthering of support and education.

The police training area and firing range are for police use only. Students are provided with resources such as video training, which, he said, will be moved once construction is complete.

"This agreement has potential for sharing resources and opportunities," said Nicholls. "It is an attempt to enhance the working relationship."

The future projects will attempt to meet NRPS training needs, create learning opportunities for students and benefit the community.

Putting the signatures to a partnering agreement between Niagara Regional Police Service and Niagara College on March 25 were, from left, Chief Grant Waddell, Police Services Board Chairman Shirley Cordiner and Niagara College President Dan Patterson. The ceremony was held at NRPS headquarters in St. Catharines. **Photo by Mélanie Blais**

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Sports

What went wrong?

April means hockey and the Stanley Cup Tournament

By RAM KRISHNAMURTHY
Staff Writer

The mystique and passion appear to be over for the Montreal Canadiens.

It's April, and for hockey fans that means the playoffs, but for Hab fans it means wondering what went wrong.

It's time for the Stanley Cup tournament, and the Canadiens are nowhere to be found. It's not as if the prognosticators were saying they would have a great year, or even a good one for that matter. You just kind of thought they would somehow qualify for post-season play.

The last time you could consider the Habs to be a consistently dominating squad would have been back in the 1970s, when they won championship after championship.

During the 1980s and 1990s, the Habs were a mediocre team just good enough to remain somewhat competitive. After all, they did win the cup in 1986 and 1993, when no one thought they would, but they did.

Even last year, the Habs were supposed to go out in the first round to the Pittsburgh Penguins. However, the team from "La belle province" beat Jagr and the Pens to at least make it to the second round.

No, it's not winning the cup, but it's remaining competitive.

This year, Hab diehards have seen their team fall from competitive to easy competition for the opposition. They were well out of the playoff race in late March and simply played out the string, adopting the role of spoilers.

With the Toronto Maple Leafs back at a level of respectability this season, Canada needs its other main National Hockey League industry, the Habs, to get their act together.

Imagine the excitement that would be generated if the Habs and Leafs were in a playoff series.

The task to generate that excitement will be a monumental one. If Montreal's management can finally put together a good effort in this year's entry draft, it will be a good start.

Most watched sport

Golf becoming high-profile sport because of Woods

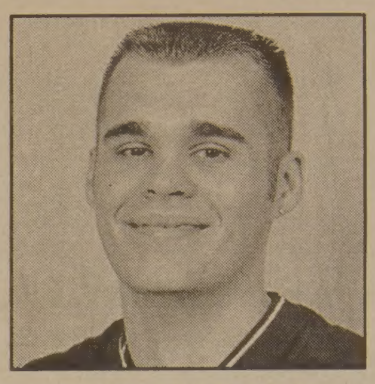
By MIKE WENCEL
Staff Writer

Golf is evolving into a high-dollar spectator sport.

It's one of the most-watched sports in the world, as evidenced by the Masters having just ended and Tiger Woods being the first person you think of when you hear the word "golf." He's the world's most famous golfer.

The Masters Tournament, held each year in Augusta, Ga., is what every golfer waits for each year.

A ticket to the event is the hardest ticket to purchase in pro sports today. However, when you have the youth of Woods, the experience of Greg "the Shark" Norman, and the expertise of the world's No. 1 player David Duval all competing on the same course, I can see why the tickets are hard to get.



It's Woods who has taken golf to its current peak. With his win at the Master's last year, he's inspired everyone to play the game of golf.

Because Nike, Woods' sponsor, puts him in many of its commercials, the company has encouraged more and more youth to take up the game each day. The new saying should be "I want to be like Tiger."

Although Woods has lost his No. 1 ranking in the world, he's still favoured to win every major tournament in which he plays.

Being the youngest pro on tour, Woods, 22, faces huge pressure to perform every time he steps on the course. With Woods winning just the Bell Classic tournament this year and Duval taking over the spotlight, the pressure has increased dramatically for Woods to finish at the top.

He's one of the top five players on the money list this year, putting him in reach of winning that title.

The amazing part for Woods is that he hasn't won a handful of tournaments like Duval, but has consistently finished in the top 10.

Although Woods hasn't shown the greatness of Arnold Palmer or Freddy Couples, you have to remember he's still maturing and has many years still to come.

Thanks for the memories, Wayne

By MARTIN McQUAIG
Staff Writer

When Wayne Gretzky was a boy he had a now-famous picture taken with his hockey hero, Gordie Howe.

When I was six, I had the thrill of meeting Gretzky and having my picture taken with my hero.

Of course, I may never beat every National Hockey League record my hero set, the way Gretzky did to Howe.

To a Canadian kid, meeting Gretzky is like a Brazilian kid meeting Pele or an American kid meeting Babe Ruth.

As Gretzky calls an end to his brilliant career, we can all be thankful we were alive to see the greatest hockey player ever.

Some fans believe he should have played one more year, to give everyone a last goodbye, but at 38, the 21-year NHL veteran must now make decisions for himself and his family.

Gretzky has done more than enough for us and for the game of hockey throughout the world.

It's time for us to say goodbye to him and thank him for bringing our great game to the pinnacle of international sport.

Although he was a shy man, Gretzky became a celebrity and sold hockey better than anyone else has before or since.

His recent commitment to the development of Canadian hockey programs ensures he'll be around hockey long after his playing days are over.

Thanks for the great memories, Wayne. We may never see another "Great One."

Meeting Wayne Gretzky was a thrill for staff writer Martin McQuaig when he was six years old.

Contributed Photo

Sports

$42,000 raised on MS walk

Welland's second Super Cities Walk on April 18 was held at Merritt Island. More than 300 friends, families and neighbours raised $42,000 to fund research and awareness of multiple sclerosis.
Photo by Mike Dilts

By MIKE DILTS
Staff Writer

People talk the talk, but on April 18 people walked the walk to help fight against multiple sclerosis (MS).

More than 300 friends, families and neighbours were at Merritt Island to participate in Welland's second Super Cities Walk.

Fred Steinhaus, 36, honourary chairperson for the Super Cities walk, said it was "overwhelming" that so many people came for the walkathon.

"It was an absolute thrill. We surpassed anything we anticipated. In fact, it looks like we're out-growing the building," said Steinhaus.

Adults and children walked, jogged, and rode their bikes along signed routes to raise more than $42,000. The money will go to the MS society to help fund family support, community education, the purchase of wheelchairs and research.

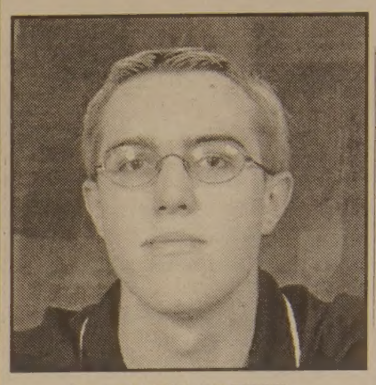
Wendy Futers, who walked the five-kilometre route, said she had "fun" and she "enjoyed" the exercise. Futers, with two of her friends, raised $800 for the cause.

Joanne Sabourin, 43, a co-chairperson for the Super Cities Walk, said they are hoping to do even better next year.

"People can come with friends and enjoy themselves while doing something for a good cause. It's a nice family day and it's a really good chance to do things together," she added.

"As long as there are still people whose lives are being affected by MS, and as long as we don't have a cure for MS, there will always be events such as the Super Cities Walk," said Steinhaus, adding he "believes" a cure will be found during his lifetime.

Miracles do occur



By DARYL SMITH
Staff Writer

Finally, Toronto Raptors' basketball fans have something to cheer about.

The Raptors are close to the .500 mark well past the halfway point of the season.

You have three people to thank for this miracle: Butch Carter, Glen Grunwald and, of course, Vince Carter.

Since Butch Carter has started coaching the Raptors, the team has become more of a family than ever.

Carter, brother of Minnesota Vikings' football star Cris Carter, took over a team in disarray after Darrell Walker resigned and the disgruntled Damon Stoudamire was traded.

Carter turned a team that finished last in the Eastern Conference a year ago into a playoff contender, and he is a good bet to win coach of the year honours.

Glen Grunwald has done a great job by getting as much as he could for superstar Stoudamire and by making superb trades for such veterans as Kevin Willis and Charles Oakley.

Grunwald, who replaced fan favourite Isiah Thomas as general manager, took a lot of heat from media and fans alike for not getting enough for Stoudamire. Grunwald now looks like a genius for helping turn around a team destined to be labelled an expansion team for at least a few more years.

"Wow!" That's all you can say about Vince Carter. He makes highlight reel plays on a nightly basis, making the Raptors one of the most exciting teams to watch.

Carter leads the team in points per game, minutes played and blocks.

At the moment, Carter is the front runner for rookie of the year and is determined to be the saviour of a franchise that has been terrible since the team has came into the league.

If the Raptors can make a run for the playoffs this year, there may be reason to believe they could be championship contenders within the next few years.

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Eye On Niagara

Beats, Rhymes and Lights at After Hours

By MONICA PALINIEWICZ
Staff Writer

"Being in Welland was forgotten" at the April 9 pub night.

Niagara College's Broadcasting—Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program students presented Beats, Rhymes and Lights, a night of kicking beats from jungle and drum and bass to hip-hop and house.

Jason Tremblett, 23, of Cambridge, a second-year student, organized the event.

"It was a pain bringing everything together," says Tremblett. "It was the most difficult thing I ever had to do. I thought that once I started this project, everything would fall into place. I didn't expect to be needed as much as I did, so I didn't get to enjoy the music as much as I would have liked to."

The night presented students with music that may be considered an "underground" scene.

Tremblett says, "I chose that type of music because nothing like that is experienced here in Welland. I think it was something Welland needed."

Being a fund-raiser, a "budget was of essence" for the event, so Tremblett managed to have the DJs "spin for free."

"The DJs are all friends of mine from back home. I knew they had the ability to put on a good show because of their past experience in playing at clubs. They totally supported me with this and didn't mind playing for free. Buy them a beer and they'd be happy anyways."

The overall success of the night was "quite surprising." There was an "excellent turnout" and everyone was "really happy with the outcome of the night," says Tremblett.

Over the past year, the BRTF students put on other fund-raisers, from $5 haircuts to barbecues and 50-50 draws but "none compared to the success of Beats, Rhymes and Lights."

"There is capital gain from throwing something big," says Tremblett. "The bigger the event, the bigger the profit, the bigger the risk."

Although the night was a "success," some "conflicts" did arise but were resolved with grace.

One problem encountered was the "DJs arriving behind schedule" but that was solved through the substitution of music on hand.

'The bigger the event, the bigger the profit, the bigger the risk.' — Jason Tremblett

Another issue presented itself when "some people disrespected the situation," but that was handled with the "help of security," says Tremblett.

All proceeds from the event go toward "four 20-minute features" for the broadcasting students and will "cover the costs of locations, actors and food for the project," says Tremblett.

As for future similar events, Tremblett says, "I definitely want to put together something similar to this for next year—maybe monthly parties where I can get various local DJs through ads, listen to their demos and go from there."

By the end of the night, Tremblett says he "left with a positive note."

"I look forward to doing this next year. I learned through my mistakes, like having more security next time around, and I know how to deal with miscommunication now. Aside from the few problems I ran into, it turned out to be a wonderful, enjoyable and profitable night."

College film students capture CBC prize

By NOELLE STAPINSKY
Staff Writer

A sole entry from Niagara College won an Ontario CBC Student Contest, enabling the students to have their drama published, a boost which kicks off their career in the film industry.

Simone Smith, of Welland, and Elizabeth Parsons, of Grimsby, wrote and produced *Outer Realm,* a 20-minute drama.

Simone Smith (left), writer and producer, Jeremy Burtch, engineer, and Lisa Moore, BRTF student, all of the film Outer Realm, which won in a CBC student contest.
Photo by Noelle Stapinsky

Smith and Parsons are second-year Broadcasting — Radio, Television, and Film program students majoring in film.

"We used talent from the Radio-Television presentation students," said Smith.

The drama is a fantasy, occult-type of story and was made for a younger generation audience. It focuses on two teenaged girls who get caught up in trying to retrieve an ex-boyfriend. He has been trapped in another realm because of black arts, more commonly known as black magic or witchery.

The ex-boyfriend has become evil. There is a bizarre love triangle in which the boy is in love with his ex-girlfriend's friend.

The prizes for the contest are $800 and the publishing of the drama.

The three categories were comedy, occult and drama.

"They were looking for fantasy and avant-garde material," said Smith. "We're just happy we won and we are actually getting something published. The money is an added bonus."

The two writers will be splitting their prize money with Jeremy Burtch, 20, of Vineland, an engineer on the project.

"We're also going to take the actors, actresses, and the teachers who helped out for a drink or something," said Smith.

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Eye On Niagara

Program demands hard work, commitment

By JENNIFER ATANAS
Staff Writer

They're the cream of the class.

Niagara College's Art and Design Fundamentals — Graphic Design program "has only the best, there are no amateurs," said co-ordinator Ken Cosgrove. "By the end of the second term there will be 105 students in the program."

Amanda Diletti, 20, of Hamilton, and Jay Milot, 19, of St. Catharines, are two first-year students enrolled in the program at the Welland campus. They said they were "shocked" to hear news that only 40 of their classmates were being accepted back for September.

The students are split into three sections. Diletti is in Section 1. Milot is in Section 2.

Cosgrove explained it depends on the students and the teacher as to who returns next term. "The teachers always talk to the students every other week." They were also given unsatisfactory progress reports, said Cosgrove.

Last fall, Diletti said she began her program at Niagara with "no discouragement or fear."

"Our teachers told us we all have the potential to become the next graphic designers. It is just a matter of discipline."

Milot said nothing was mentioned to the students in September. "They told us, in art we must deal with criticism, and to try to do better each time."

In order to succeed in this line of work students must be "creatively and logically competitive and unafraid. They must know they are good," said Cosgrove.

Diletti said the main point expressed to her class was anyone not pulling their weight had to begin doing so. "I was very scared. My marks are fine, but I don't know exactly what is being expected of me."

The following week, Diletti said she approached one of her teachers who assured her, anyone doing their work and doing it well shouldn't have a problem. "I am not as scared now." Milot said he, however, didn't approach anyone with questions.

'We are accepting no freeloaders.' — Ken Cosgrove

Cosgrove said he's always available for help and to provide clarification, but the news of the apparent cuts must have been "a slight misunderstanding," which occurred between the teachers and the students.

"If there are only 40 students who prove through their work that they are worth it, that's all I'm taking. We are accepting no freeloaders." After hearing such a scare, "the doodlers tend to turn themselves around," said Cosgrove.

Milot said his section wasn't told anything about cuts. "We were told we will be given a package over the summer holidays which must be completed or we are not welcome back."

As a result of the course demanding a "tremendous effort," the package must be completed in order for the students not to forget what they've learned.

"The four-month layoff is nonsense. The students must have momentum," said Cosgrove.

The majority of the people in Diletti's section are hard workers, she said. "The other half of the majority do not have enough interest in their work, just enough to get a passing grade."

"If you don't put in the effort, it is stupid to be here. Either you're serious or you're not," Milot said.

You must be "sharp" in this line of work, said Cosgrove. "The course provides a perspective of the industry and it builds character. We do not provide a fantasy."

Cosgrove said the first-year students are "very good," but he will only take the students who want to be successful. "Young people are capable of a lot of good things."

Diletti, Milot and Cosgrove agree the program involves effort and commitment. Cosgrove said although there aren't enough hands to help everyone, he encourages students to work hard and welcomes their questions.

"We are always here to talk to students."

Three students enjoy college life, experiences

By TRACEY ALLISON
Staff Writer

Three Niagara College students say college has been a positive experience.

"Niagara College has been the greatest learning experience in my life," said Theresa Tamburro, 18, of Ajax, Ont.

Tamburro is a first-year student in the Correctional Worker program at the Welland campus. She said she chose Niagara as her first choice because her "best friend" was going here and she was "excited" when accepted.

Tamburro said she especially likes using the facilities such as the library and computer lab. She finds the financial aid office "helpful." However, she isn't happy in her program.

"I think a lot of the classes are useless information."

Tamburro said she doesn't think the classes are "proper" for the program although "loves" her teachers because "they are awesome and know a lot about the field."

Tamburro said she has decided to leave Niagara next year and go into sociology at Brock University in St. Catharines. However, she said, she has no regrets about coming to Niagara. "I am happy with all the wonderful people I've met."

Tamburro lives in a basement apartment with her best friend. She said, at first, she wanted to live in residence, but is happy living where she is.

"College is a lot different than I expected. It is similar to high school, only bigger."

Tamburro said she likes college more than high school because it's "a greater learning experience."

Her favourite aspect of college life is her spot on the indoor varsity soccer team. She said she "loves" her coach and all of the players. "The only downfall is that there is no outdoor team."

Tamburro said she'll take everything she's learned in her first year to help her in the future.

"Not only did I begin to further my education, but I gained friendships and experiences that will last a lifetime."

Tyler Blair, 21, of Atikokan, Ont., said he enjoys college a lot more than high school. "Niagara was a good change for me, a good experience."

Blair is in his second year of the Law and Security Administration program and chose Niagara because it was far from home and closer to big cities. "It is a different lifestyle than what I'm used to."

Blair said although it wasn't his first choice, "overall I like the programs. I find there could be some improvement in certain areas, but overall I approve of the learning outcome."

Blair said during the first year he found some classes were "pointless" and did not relate to the program. He said it's better during second year because they apply the courses to policing. "I feel there is a big improvement from last year."

Blair said he has no problems with the attitude of the teachers, but he finds some classes don't have the proper teachers. He said his favourite class is "anything taught by Mr. (Gino) Arcaro."

Blair said he enjoys living in residence at the Welland campus. "It's the best residence I have ever seen."

He said he likes the experience because it's a good place to meet new friends.

Blair takes advantage of college facilities such as the library, the computer lab and the gym.

He said college isn't what he thought it would be because he expected it would be more challenging. "I've gotta remember this isn't university."

Blair said he has no regrets because what he's learned over the past two years will help him in the future.

"It was an excellent experience for me to be a part of a different lifestyle."

Adam Yacura, 19, of Beamsville, Ont., said college has been a positive experience.

He said he likes college more than high school. "I like the freedom and I have the option to go to class or not."

Yacura is in his first year of the Law and Security Administration program. He said he realized, after he applied to other schools, he didn't want any of the programs except Niagara's, "so it was my only option. "

He said he doesn't "especially" like his program. "Some classes are interesting, but overall I find it boring."

Yacura lives in residence and says it's "a great place" to meet new people. "It is great being close to the school so you can wake up late and go home on breaks."

Yacura said the downside is he feels they have too many rules, and "freedom is limited."

Yacura said college is what he thought it would be with the exception he's "disappointed" with his classes.

Yacura uses all the college's facilities. "It is great that there is no cost to use the gym."

Yacura said he has no regrets about picking Niagara and hopes to get a job when he's finished.

He said he has enjoyed the college experience so far. "It has a good atmosphere and the people and teachers are generally nice."

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Eye On Niagara

Counsellor teaches parents new tricks

By MEGAN ROSS
Staff Writer

The Niagara College Child Care Centre held a parent education night on April 6 to discuss Exploring Effective Discipline Strategies for Today's Families.

The evening's guest speaker was Lynn Adams, 45. She's an addiction counsellor at the Newport Centre in Port Colborne, and is a parent study group facilitator for family education in the Niagara Region. She has been doing this for 22 years. She also teaches parenting courses. This was her second time as a guest speaker.

Adams said she does this as a volunteer because she believes "very strongly" that more effective families are the core of a "decent" society.

Adams said this seminar's objective was to have people understand "why they are doing what they are doing as parents."

Adams started her lecture just after 7 p.m., using an interactive style in which she asked the audience questions.

The first question posed to the audience was "Who was your favourite teacher?" She listed words people use to describe the teacher. She did the same for their worst teacher.

Adams discussed the three types of families: authoritarian, in which the parent wins and the child loses; permissive, in which the child wins and parent loses; and democratic, in which no one wins and no one loses.

One of Adams's main points was that"love"is spelt T-I-M-E.

Adams discussed the two per cent principle as an example of how to spend more time with your children. Her advice was to start spending 20 minutes a day with your children and then increase that amount of time slowly, so the children don't think something is wrong. To change dramatically tends to scare children into thinking something is wrong.

Adams said she believes in attending a parenting weekend once a year, to replenish yourself so you can give more and to talk to the people who are also parenting your children.

She advised that you should "date your spouse" once a week, and there is no greater gift to a child than to love your spouse.

Adams handed out balloons at the end and then told everyone to blow them up. She instructed that when you hear words that can hurt you, blow the balloon up, and when you hear nice words, let the air out.

She then started speaking harshly. Only a few people got the blowing up correct. One balloon even popped.

The object of this was to show harsh words can hurt children until they just blow up. "Except children don't blow up, they just shut down," Adams said.

"Never do for anyone what they can do for themselves," Adams advised. She ended the evening by saying, "Make it a good evening."

Catherine Mewett, a parent, said, "I need to come to something like this to find out if I'm doing it (parenting) right." She said she left "feeling better" about her parenting skills.

"(The) message was effectively presented," Sharon Senicuk, 45, said. "Humour made her a dramatic speaker, and very informative."

Student hopes for volunteer chance in South America

By DESLYN DIARAM
Staff Writer

Getting involved with international organizations can be a rewarding experience.

Maryianne Williams, 19, of Lindsay, Ont., a Niagara College student in the General Arts and Sciences program, said she got her chance from the local newspaper.

Williams said she saw an advertisement for an organization called Youth Challenge International (YCI) in the local paper in Lindsay.

"I just called the number and sent in an information sheet I filled out. They called me back and told me I had been chosen."

Williams added she participated in an activity day held at Riverdale Farms in Toronto.

"It was so much fun. We were tested on how well we could work with others and on our problem-solving skills."

She said YCI is a non-profit organization designed to get people involved in helping with global issues.

She said the YCI members and leaders are volunteers. "We have four trips throughout the year which you are chosen for. The staff of YCI have turned the trips into careers for themselves."

Williams held a fund-raiser on April 8 at After Hours, the Welland campus pub.

Williams said she's trying to raise money for her upcoming trip with YCI to Guyana in South America. "It was a lot harder to raise money than I thought."

Williams said the trip involves the construction of schools, environmental work and assisting in medical care.

Williams said if she can't raise $4,200 for the 2 1/2-month trip, she'll have to pay for it herself. "It's going to be hard because I am a student, yet I am trying to do something that will help benefit others."

She said this trip is a "very" important part of her life. "For myself it's a personal lifetime experience. Not everyone can do or handle this kind of trip. It involves hard work and long days of labour."

Williams said YCI benefits everyone. "When I come back from Guyana I have to complete 100 hours of community service here in Ontario."

She said she will present information about what life is like in Guyana to future members of YCI and to the community.

"Everyone is benefiting. I am going to Guyana to help the people there, yet when I come back I am educating the people here where I live."

Williams said she'd hoped for more participation from the students at the college. "I am going to keep trying. I really believe this is a worthwhile trip."

Williams said she's glad to explain her trip in more detail for people interested in YCI.

"I am looking for donations from anyone who could help me out. I really believe in this organization and what it can do for the people of Guyana and around the world."

Williams said she will accept calls from those interested at her home phone number (905) 984-5544.

Child Find takes student volunteers

By MARTIN McQUAIG
Staff Writer

Child Find Ontario is looking for a few "good" volunteers to make the community "a safer place for all children."

Dr. Peter Sacco, a Niagara College instructor and co-ordinator of public speaking for Child Find, says students can do a great deal to help.

"Volunteers don't have to be professional to do this. We like to get college students to come in and volunteer," he says.

Child Find's Niagara Region chapter is on Main Street in Niagara Falls. Some of the volunteer opportunities include fingerprinting children, posting and maintaining missing-children posters in the area and staffing information booths. Child Find also conducts fund-raising and promotional events. Volunteers are asked to contribute between four and eight hours a month.

Dr. Sacco says volunteer experience is "essential" on a résumé.

"Your accessibility to your community is important to employers." Dr. Sacco, of Niagara Falls, has worked with Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the Green Ribbon Task Force, and the Business Educational Council, where he speaks to children and parents about what he does as a counsellor.

"Most missing children are runaways. We're just trying to get them back into their parents' custody," he says, adding parents spend, on average, 4 1/2 minutes a day talking to their children. In his public speaking, he tries to explain the importance of communication.

"Know what your kids are doing," he says. "Know where they hang out and who they're hanging out with."

He says it's also important to know what children are doing on the Internet and watching on television.

Dr. Sacco says he's concerned about teenage girls being smuggled to the U.S., where they are promised drugs and money in exchange for prostitution.

He is working on a 10-part series for Cogeco Cable Television in Niagara Falls. The series, Parenting in the Millennium, deals with new issues parents and their children are facing. In the series, Dr. Sacco works with police officers, a psychic and an immigration official.

The Criminal Psychology certificate program, which Dr. Sacco developed and teaches, is awaiting full Ontario ministry of education approval. Courses in the program are available through Niagara College's Continuing Education and Distance Learning Division.

Dr. Sacco says he believes Niagara is the only college in Ontario to offer criminal psychology, and that it will be available through distance learning on the Internet in September.

Information on volunteer programs is available from Dr. Sacco in S110 or by calling Child Find Niagara Region at 374-1677.

Summer students must register their locker number with the college's registrar's office by May 14. All locks must be removed and contents taken out of lockers by May 28. The college is not responsible for locker contents after May 28.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson spent time with the kindergarden class from the college's Child Care Centre on April 14, at their first annual art show. The children raised money for an end-of-term pizza party.

Photo by Jamie White